

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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June 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies" (Isaiah 6:5 NLT).

Think about being in the presence of someone who is as good as you can imagine. No one is perfect of course, but some certainly approach it. You would feel guilty just being in that person's presence. Peter said to Jesus, "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man" when he realized the holiness in Jesus as God.

Such a consciousness of our inadequacy and sinful fallenness is necessary for any real change to take place in our lives as Christians to become more like Christ. Likewise, Isaiah felt that way before the throne of Almighty God.

I'll tell a story: A well-known professional golfer played in a tournament with President Gerald Ford, Billy Graham, and Jack Nicklaus. After the round was over, one of the other pros on the tour asked, "Hey, what was it like playing with the President and Billy Graham?"

The pro said with disgust, "I don't need Billy Graham stuffing religion down my throat!" With that, he headed for the practice tee. His friend followed, and after the golfer had pounded out his fury on a bucket of golf balls, he asked, "Was Billy a little rough on you out there?" The pro sighed and said with embarrassment, "No, he didn't even mention religion."

Commenting on this event, R.C. Sproul, in his book, The Holiness Of God, says, quote...

"Astonishingly, Billy Graham had said nothing about God, Jesus, or religion, yet the pro stomped away after the game accusing Billy of trying to ram religion down his throat." So, what had happened in this encounter? What happened was that, in the presence of this world-famous evangelist, the golfer was reminded of the existence of the Holy. And, just as importantly, he was convicted of his unholiness. There is no hope for advancement unless, first of all, we are conscious of our need." We must be aware of our sinfulness. Without

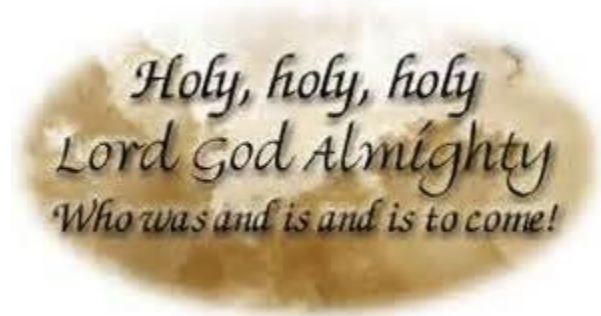
words spoken, the golfer was challenged to change himself.

Just a year before the death of A.W. Tozer, he was asked to speak at a conference of ministers on any subject he chose. God's holiness was the subject, and he is quoted as saying: "I believe we ought to have again the old biblical concept of God which makes God awful and makes men lie face down and cry, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty.'" That would do more for the church than anything else.

Tozer was right. Have you heard the call of God to a life of holiness, purity, and service? More importantly... have you accepted His call?

Pastor Tom Emery

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!



1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

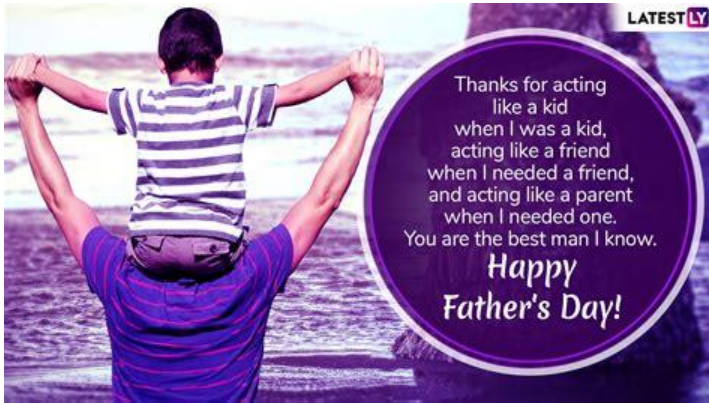
2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy
sea;
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky
 and sea;
 Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Author: Reginald Heber (1826).

"My Earthly Dad" Poem for Father's Day



It's no secret that children observe and copy the behaviors they see in the lives of their parents. Christian fathers have the immense responsibility of demonstrating the heart of God to their children. They also have the great privilege of leaving behind a spiritual legacy. Here is a poem about one father whose godly character pointed her child to the heavenly Father.

With these three words,
 "Dear Heavenly Father,"
 I begin my every prayer,
 But the man I see
 While on bended knee
 Is always my earthly dad.
 He is the image
 Of the Father divine
 Reflecting the nature of God,
 For his love and care
 And the faith he shared
 Pointed me to my Father above.

"My Earthly Dad" by Mary Fairchild

Don't forget Father's Day is June 16th!

The Sacrament of Baptism

"Remember your baptism and be thankful." These words from the liturgy may give us pause for thought.

What is it about baptism that we are called to remember? For what are we giving thanks?

Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians (Communion is the other). The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning:

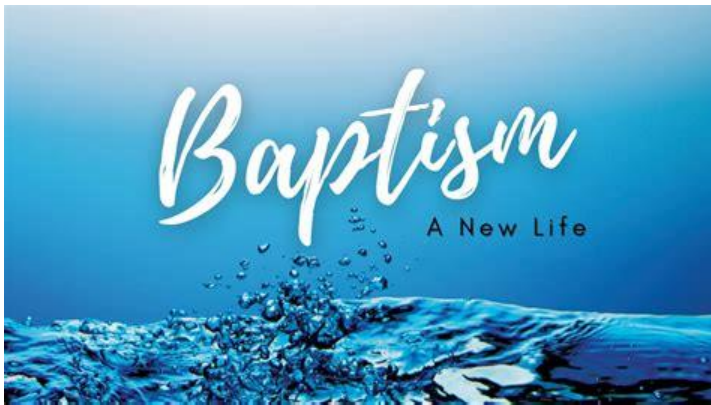
- Baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us.
- In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and calls us to Christian discipleship.
- Through baptism we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and become members of Christ's body, the church.
- The practice of baptism affirms that we are washed clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.
- We receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit in baptism, who empowers us with gifts for ministry in the church and world.
- Baptism marks us as Christ's own forever, with hope for the fulfillment of God's eternal realm of justice and peace.

What Does the Bible Say? All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matt. 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the heavens opening, the Spirit descending like a dove, and the voice of God saying: "You are my Son, My Beloved; with You, I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). Notice that all three Persons of the Trinity are involved. When we are baptized with water in the Name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's baptism. God claims us as beloved children, too, and anoints us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of baptism to refer to His death, saying to James and John: "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with" (Mark 10:38)? Indeed, baptism is our symbolic participation in Christ's death; however, rising from the water, we also share in Christ's glorious resurrection.

John's Gospel characterizes this transformation as a kind of second birth: Jesus says to Nicodemus, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5). In baptism we are called to a new way of life as Christ's

disciples, sharing the Good News of the gospel with all the world.



Thus, when Jesus appears to the disciples in Galilee after rising from the dead, he gives them this Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19).

As the sign and seal of God’s covenant, baptism has deep connections with the story of the people of Israel recorded in the Old Testament.

Just as the breath of God swept across the face of the waters of chaos at the creation of the world (Gen. 1:2), the Spirit of God breathes into us the gift of life in baptism.

- Just as God sent a flood in the time of Noah to wash away evil from the earth (Gen. 6–9), in baptism God cleanses us from sin and makes way for a new beginning in our lives.
- Just as God delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt through the waters of the sea (Exodus 14), baptism represents our liberation from captivity to sin and death and the beginning of our journey to the land that God has promised.

• For the people of Israel, circumcision was the principal sign of a covenant relationship with God (Gen. 17:11). Similarly, for Christians, baptism is the mark of our inclusion in God’s covenant of grace—a relationship that extends from the children of Abraham and Sarah to the followers of Jesus.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we glimpse the importance of baptism in the early church, as ever-expanding circles of people receive the gospel. On the day of Pentecost, at a gathering of devout Jews, three thousand people were baptized (Acts 2:41). Later, Philip baptized an Ethiopian eunuch (considered unclean under Jewish law) on the road between

Jerusalem and Gaza (8:26–40). After his own conversion on the road to Damascus, a persecutor of Christians named Saul (later Paul) is baptized (9:18) and devotes himself to the mission of spreading the gospel.

Peter has a strange vision about eating unclean foods (10:9–16) and comes to understand that “God shows no partiality” among the nations (10:34); he then begins to baptize Gentiles as well as Jews (Acts 10:47). Subsequent chapters of Acts recount the baptisms of entire households (16:11–15; 18:8). The letters of the apostle Paul also reveal the profound significance of baptism for the first Christians.

The Protestant Reformation brought significant changes in the theology and practice of baptism. While Martin Luther (1483–1546) and John Calvin (1509–1564) continued the tradition of infant baptism, they argued that the power of baptism did not come from the act itself but from its connection with the promise of God conveyed in the Scriptures. The sacrament is thus a “sign and seal” of that promise. Therefore, in the Reformed tradition, the sacrament of baptism is always to be accompanied by the proclamation of the Word.

Luther and Calvin also insisted that baptism be followed by ongoing instruction in the faith, particularly through the study of the Bible and catechisms. In terms of its theological significance infant baptism expresses that it is God who chooses us for faith, discipleship, and salvation; without God, we have no power to claim these things for ourselves. The Reformed inclination toward simplicity in liturgical form and close adherence to the Scriptures meant that many of the accompanying traditions associated with baptism (the giving of candles, for instance) were stripped away. The celebration of baptism as a communal act of public worship was also restored.

Part 2 will be continued next month.

Adapted from writings of David Gambrell, associate for worship in the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Music Committee Update

The Music Committee would like to remind everyone if they would like an old hymnal, please pick them up by July 1st. They are located in the church basement in boxes or contact Kathy McCollow.

The annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on September 1st. Our director this year is Truman Littler. Truman hails from Pennsylvania, but currently lives and teaches music in Elida Local Schools. Connie O’Neill will be on the organ and Joyce Morris will be playing the piano.

We are still in the planning stages, so stay tuned for more information.

We recently had to do some repairs to the organ. The grand ole' girl is now over 50 years old, so we do expect some more complex repairs in the upcoming future. Please keep our organ fund in mind if you are wanting to donate in memory of a loved one or a special occasion. We greatly appreciate everyone's financial support!

The bell choirs recently finished up another season. We were blessed to have an average of 20 kids participating. Ages ranged from 4 to 18 years old with an occasional adult filling in. Thanks to all the parents for their efforts in getting them up early on Sundays for practice and being dependable so Kathy could plan their playing schedule. See you all back in late September.



Salem Church Ice Cream Social

Friday, June 21, 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

Attend the Ice Cream Social featuring Venedocia Lion's Club Sausage and Ice Cream along with other dinner and dessert items.



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 \$48,260.12
Received to Date \$52,607.25

Cheesecake Recipe by Emerald Pugh



7 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
1 ½ C Graham Cracker crumbs (9 whole crackers)
3 Tbsp Sugar
Melt butter, add sugar, cracker crumbs, mix and cover 8x8 baking dish.

8 oz Cream Cheese
1 C Powdered Sugar
1 tsp Vanilla
8 oz Cool Whip
1 can Cherry Pie Filling (21 oz)
Mix Cream Cheese with mixer till smooth
Add sugar and vanilla
Add Cool Whip till well mixed – not over mixed

Spread over Graham Crackers
Spoon on cherry pie filling evenly

Refrigerate at least 2 hours – best overnight

*Double all ingredients for a 9x13 pan.

Thank You

I wanted to thank you all so much for the desserts that you made for the funeral supper for my husband Dale Edward Kuiesza on April 11, 2024. Your kindness for my entire family was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Jeff Coil and Bob McCollow for setting up the tables and chairs, and for making sure that the Lion's Club was unlocked.

LuAnn (Friesner) Kuiesza

Salem Photos



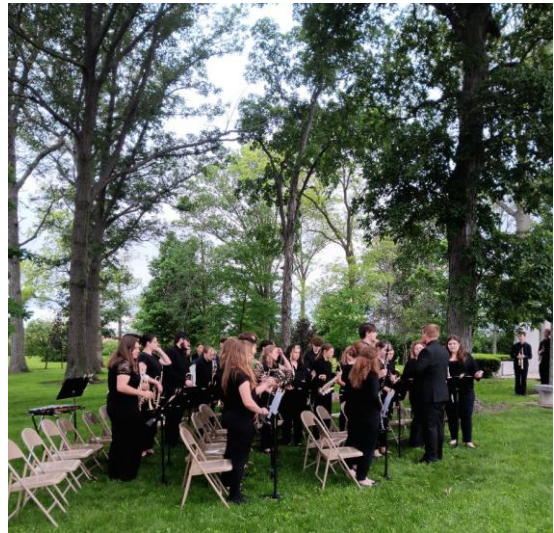
2024-5-02 Gathering of the National Day of Prayer at the Van Wert County Courthouse with County churches participating.



2024-05-05 Terri Jane Lloyd held by her father Scott Lloyd



2024-05-27 Memorial Day Speaker, Robb Wiss



Memorial Day Celebration



2024-05-26 Acolytes

Adversity

"We can never allow our adversity to define who we are. We are who we are. Adversity is just a footnote in our life's journey. God uses adversity in our lives as a lens through which He can be seen. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened."

- David Jeremiah

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

"Young at Heart"

Paul & Doris Price

18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marilyn Stockton

Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Marjorie Eutsler

Room 302
Homestead at Town Ctr
240 Towne Center Blvd
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ellen Freisner

Delphos Van Crest
(Moving to independent
Living)

Ann Rees

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
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 families of Larry Miller.

Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Barb Owens | 4 Chad Pugh |
| 6 Cassy Yeboah-Mantey | 7 Breck Morris |
| 7 Brezlynn Morris | 8 Tammy Wells |
| 10 Dillon Ellerbrock | 11 Doris Evans |
| 13 Kevin Price | 14 Sandra Caffro |
| 17 Katey Lloyd | 18 Charlie Good |
| 22 Ann Rees | 25 Tamara Mullenhour |
| 29 Tom Evans | 30 Shania (Profit) Lloyd |

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 Jeff & Kim Coil | 17 Bill & Elgarda McGee |
| 22 Todd & Jayne Morris | 24 Owen & Karen Pugh |
| 25 Rex & Lisa Lloyd | 28 Larry & Sandra Caffro |

Prayer Concerns

Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Tim (Alfie) Burnett (auto accident healing)
Tom Burnett (tractor accident)
Kim Coil (recovery from surgery)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

Jane Harter
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (leg & foot issues)
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)
Travis Snyder (pancreatic cancer)
Tori & Roger Wells (surgeries)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents



June 2024



| Sunday | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|-----|
| 2 9:30 AM Worship *Minute for Mission by Cassy Yeboah-Mantey *Graduate Recognition of Evan Pugh | 3 | 4 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. | 5 | 6 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:30 AM Worship *Graduate recognition of Lex Greer 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting. | 10 | 11 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. | 12 | 13 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:30 AM Worship *Baptism of Terri-Jane Lloyd | 17 | 18 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. | 19 | 20 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church Race St., VW | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting | 24 | 25 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. | 26 | 27 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 AM Worship | | | | | | |

| Week of | Nursery | Flowers | Organist |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| June 2 | Liz Hobbs & Kim Coil | | Beth Conn |
| June 9 | Michael & Lindsay Breese | | Becky Reichard |
| June 16 | Mark & Missy Zielke | | |
| June 23 | Toby & Elizabeth Adkins | | Connie O'Neill |
| June 30 | Tyler & Morgan McConnell | | Connie O'Neill |
| | | Greeter: | Johnathon Morris |

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



2024-05-12 Anna and Bianca cheerfully at church

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

June 2024 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 2

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Deut. 5:12-15 | Psalm 81:1-10 |
| 2 Cor. 4:5-12 | Mark 2:23-3:6 |

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 9

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Gen. 3:8-15 | Psalm 130 |
| 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1 | Mark 3:20-35 |

4th Sunday after Pentecost – June 16

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Ezek. 17:22-24 | Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 |
| 2 Cor. 5:6-17 | Mark 4:26-34 |

5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 23

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Job 38:1-11 | Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 |
| 2 Cor. 6:1-13 | Mark 4:35-41 |

6th Sunday after Pentecost – June 30

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Lam. 3:22-33 | Psalm 30 |
| 2 Cor. 8:7-15 | Mark 5:21-43 |
