

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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July 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁸Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. ⁹For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. (*Romans 13:8-10 NLT*).

I was not raised in a practicing Christian household. All I could experience Christianity in my childhood was seeing Christians in the world and observing their behavior. But in college, I got a job where I visited many families in their homes with appointments to sign legal contracts after explaining terminology to the husbands and wives. I was shocked to find that Christians were different from others with whom I was acquainted.

I witnessed better behavior, respect for the parents, and obedience in the children in the Christian households. They had joy in their eyes. The parents deeply loved each other. The parents also loved their children and seemed to love, care for, and respect one another. I didn't experience anger.

I saw families sitting down to eat together. They welcomed me, a stranger, to eat with them, and they prayed over the meals. They asked me if I had any needs that they could pray. I experienced a love that I hadn't experienced in the world. I remember saying to myself, "I want what they have." I felt nothing compared to the real love I experienced in those encounters.

Without Christ in your life, this world can be depressing. Paul wrote that love fulfills the requirements of God's law. Let us all seek to truly love one another and enjoy the life that is more than abundant in Christ Jesus!

Pastor Tom Emery

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;

And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.



We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Peter Scholtes, 1966.

Be Grateful for Our Country

"I'm sick of all the problems here in America," wrote an angry student online last year. Then she listed all the things she didn't like about it. And in a way, I get it. I have a list of gripes, too. But if you focus solely on what you don't like about your country, then you'll probably overlook the good things and discount the blessings. And I think that's a shame.

Yes, our history is marked by injustice, crime, abuse, and racism. And yet, no country on this planet hasn't struggled with the same problems. No, not one. I've titled this post "Why You Should Teach Your Kids to Be Grateful for Their Country" because, sadly, no one else will. Possibly, your kids will not learn about the blessings of being an American at school. Or on the news. Or even among their friends.



As July 4th approaches, I want to balance out the bad things our kids hear by focusing on the good things we have to be grateful for in our nation. Here's why kids (and the rest of us) should be grateful for America:

1. It Is a Beautiful Place

From the raging waters of Niagara Falls to the endless mazes of the Everglades, from the white sand deserts to the giant Redwood Forest, our country is filled with natural beauty. These abundant blessings of nature are our heritage. Teach your kids to be grateful for our country's beauty. Point it out. Visit a national park. Thank God for His creation. Appreciating God's handiwork will enable your kids to enjoy it more.

2. You Are Free to Speak Out

You can say just about anything you want to in America. You can sing, write, or publish whatever you want. You can complain about Congress. You can criticize the mayor or write about the problems with the tax code. You can even mock the president openly. This isn't the case in many other countries. Even though some misuse the freedom of speech, I'm grateful for it, because it allows me to write and speak about my faith.

3. You Are Free to Practice Your Religion

Once I heard a Chinese refugee describe his imprisonment in China. Because he had led a secret Christian church, his home was confiscated, and his entire family was sent to prison for two years. I'll never forget the look on his face or the tremor in his voice as he talked about how he treasured the freedom to worship. It's something I hope never to take for granted.

4. You Have Free Access to Education

In South Sudan, 84% of the women are illiterate. In contrast, our country provides all of its children with free education. I didn't like school very much when I was young, so it was hard for me to see it as a blessing. Maybe your kids feel the same way. Remind them that school is a privilege that many—especially women—

don't have. Teach your children to be grateful for the learning opportunities our country provides.

5. You Are Free to Own Property

Owning a home is the cornerstone of the American Dream, but if you lived in Nigeria or Yemen, you might not have the opportunity to own your own home. Ever. And even if you were granted the right to own property, your ownership rights might not be protected from seizure. But here, your property rights are protected. Teach your kids to appreciate and care for your home, car, or whatever your family owns.

6. You Are Free to Travel

In some countries, citizens are required to have exit visas before they can travel. That means the government decides when and if you can leave. In 2019, I visited Slovenia, a former part of Communist Yugoslavia. Our tour guide told us that she was prohibited from visiting her grandmother in a neighboring country years ago. Sadly, she met her grandmother only once, even though she lived less than 100 miles away. If you travel this summer, pause for a moment with your kids to thank God for this freedom.

7. You Have a High Standard of Living

According to Pew Research study, 56% of Americans are considered high-income by the global standard. Another 32% are considered upper-middle-income. If you've traveled very much overseas, you know this to be true. In many places, you can't drink the water, and the roads are almost impassable. Appliances such as air-conditioning, dishwashers, and refrigerators, are rare. Teach your kids to be grateful for everyday conveniences. If you don't, they may never realize all the good things they have to enjoy.

8. There Are Many Opportunities

In most countries, opportunity is limited, and your place in society is assigned; in America, you determine them for yourself. A beggar's son can become president. An immigrant can own his or her own business. Tony Blair once said: "A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in . . . and how many want to get out." Americans are blessed not only with the freedom to dream, but with the freedom to pursue their dreams.

9. God Placed You Here

The Bible tells us that "God began by making one person, and from him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live" (Acts 17:26 NCV). In other words, God chose for you to live right here, right now. In His great wisdom, He gave you a country to belong to. Teach your kids to trust God's plan, even when it doesn't seem good. I love this quote: "God gave us the whole earth to love, but since our hearts are small, He ordained for each one a special place—a home—to

love above all.” (Adapted from the writings of Runyard Kipling)

I grew up celebrating the 4th of July with my family and friends at the lake. Every year, we paused to thank God for our country before tearing into platters of tangy barbeque chicken with white sauce, mounds of coleslaw and creamy potato salad, and of course, American flag cake. After dark, we shot firecrackers and ran around the yard waving our sparklers, rejoicing in our freedom. Like an invisible thread, celebrating our country bound us together. Even as a child, it made me feel like an important part of something special. It gave me a sense of security, belonging, and gratitude. Every kid needs that. I hope you agree.

Instill a Sense of Patriotic Gratitude in Your Kids by Teaching Them:

- Why you're grateful for America (you can use the reasons above).
- About America's symbols: the flag, the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, etc.
- Why we celebrate Independence Day.
- To honor our soldiers.
- To be responsible citizens by voting, volunteering, and obeying the law. (Rom. 13:1-7)
- What to do during the national anthem.
- That there's a better country. While America is a good place, you can belong to something much greater: the holy nation of God (1 Pet. 2:9).

Adapted from: Why You Should Teach Your Kids to Be Grateful for Their Country. May Patterson, Crosswalk.com. Jun 29, 2023.

The Parables of Jesus – Earthly Stories with Heavenly Meanings

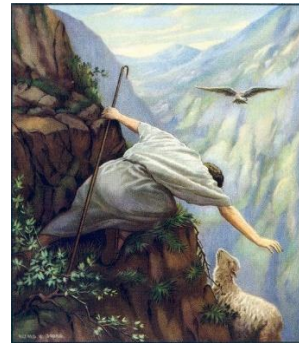
The Unforgettable Stories of Jesus: You may not remember the title, and you may forget the Scripture reference...but a gripping biblical story with an inspirational message is something you won't forget. Jesus knew this. He was a masterful storyteller! His stories were called parables, from a Greek word meaning "to lay alongside of." And this is exactly what Jesus did – each parable He shared communicated a bold truth wrapped in an example of everyday life. Practical. Easy to understand. Earthly stories with heavenly meanings.

Nearly forty of Jesus's parables are recorded in the New Testament. And we can still find great truth, wisdom and guidance in them for our lives today!

Jesus used parables because they are easy to understand and remember and because they reveal the truth in the listener's heart.

Here are three of Jesus's parables found in Luke's gospel. He told each of these stories consecutively because they each revealed a similar truth. Jesus was speaking to a crowd including His disciples, other sinners and religious leaders.

Parable of the Lost Sheep-Luke 15:3-7



Jesus said, *“What man of you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”*

Life Application: God loves the lost! He takes the initiative in searching for the lost. We are called to shine His light into the darkness and share

the gospel.

Parable of the Lost Coin-Luke 15:8-9

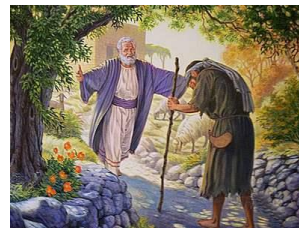


Jesus said, *“Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”*

Life Application: Lost people have great value to God. God

does not hate sinners. Instead, God loves sinners. He searches for them and is overjoyed when He finds them.

Parable of the Prodigal Son-Luke 15:11-32



told of the son, who rebelliously left home and squandered his share of his father's fortune. He found himself hungry and desperate. He decided to go back home to his father and ask to be

taken in as one of his father's servants because surely, he was not worthy of being called his son any longer. Jesus said, *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned.’”* The father threw a great party to celebrate his son coming home. **Life Application:** It doesn't matter what you've done or how far you've wandered away from God. If you take the first step toward God, He'll come to meet you!

The common theme of these three parables is not to be missed. God loves the lost! If you are lost today, be assured that God will come looking for you. He will search until He finds you and brings you to Himself. And when He finds you, He and all of Heaven will

rejoice. Jesus said, "In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents." Luke 15:10

Adapted from: The Parables of Jesus – Earthly Stories with Heavenly Meanings by Dr. Robert Jeffers.

Music Committee Update

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 play the piano. We are still planning, so stay tuned for more information.



Salem Church Ice Cream Social

A special thanks to everyone who helped by working or donating to our annual ice cream social. We cleared approximately \$2,300, which was a little more than last year. Although the weather was extremely warm, we appreciated the air conditioning at the Lions Club and all those who came out to support our event. We had several compliments on our homemade pies and delicious ice cream. The money will be put in our general fund.

Just a reminder that we will be having an election supper on Tuesday, November 5th. The menu will include soups, sandwiches, and pie. It will be held at the Lions Club again. I hope to see you in November.

Submitted by Kathy McCollow



2024-06-21 Ice Cream Social.



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 \$59,750.63
Received to Date \$61,322.50

Salem Photos



2024-05-28 Kite flying behind the church



2024-06-16 Terri Jane Lloyd on her Baptism with mother, Katey and father, Scott Lloyd



2024-06-09 Lexie Greer prayer send-off for high school graduation



2024-06-16 MaKenna Kimmit recovering from two broken legs from a fall. She has returned to run the sound system at Salem.



2024-05-28 Kendrick Woods Park Geese



2024-06-28 Wheat harvest finished

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
1425 E. 5th St
Delphos, OH 45833

Ann Rees
Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van Wert, Oh 45891

Away at College

Landon Price. Ohio University,
77 Mill St, 101, Athens, Ohio 45701

Isaiah Pugh University of Toledo
3030 Residence Drive, Ottawa East Room 4205-A
Toledo, OH 43606

Condolences to the family of Nancy Shaffer

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore
4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins
15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
15 Scott & Katey Lloyd
15 Peter & Morgan McCollow

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

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
10 Vern Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Price	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	18 Marjorie Eutsler
22 Dave Rees	24 Evan Pugh
25 Charlotte McConnell	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Strickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

Anniversaries

19 Cory & Sylvia McCollow
24 Bill & Ruth Evans
25 David & Nancy Jo Breese
27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd
31 Jason & Danielle Lloyd

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
MaKenna Kimmet (broken legs)
Jim Lloyd (leg & foot issues)
David Morris (Zeb)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Travis Snyder (pancreatic cancer)
Tori & Roger Wells (surgeries)
6 The area Nursing Homes and their residents



July 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW.	3	4 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Pentecostal Way Church	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Pastor Harry Tolhurst	8	9 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW.	10	11 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Pentecostal Way Church	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship w/guest speaker John Zerbe 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	15	16 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree in VW.	17	18 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Pentecostal Way Church	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	22	23 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree in VW.	24	25 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Pentecostal Way Church	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship	29	30 9-11:30 AM VBS 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree in VW.	31 9-11:30 AM VBS			

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
July 7	Not staffed		Beth Conn
July 14	Bob & Denise Pugh	Mark & Missy Zielke	Lexi Greer
July 21	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Mark & Missy Zielke	Lexi Greer
July 28	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard
		Greeter:	Kim Coil

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



2024-06-09 Duncan, the parking lot friendly tame duck, looking for treats

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

**July 2024
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 7

Ezek. 2:1-5	Psalm 123
2 Cor. 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 14

Amos 7:7-15	Psalm 85:8-13
Eph. 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29

9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 21

Jer. 23:1-6	Psalm 23
Eph. 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34 53-56

10th Sunday after Pentecost – July 28

2 Kings 4:42-44	Psalm 145:10-18
Eph. 3:14-21	John 6:1-21