

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 26 Issue 8

August 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!² Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! (Psalm 32:1-2)

Let's say that you made a bad choice and broke one of God's commandments on how to live. You know that God is a holy God who cannot tolerate sin, whether it is lying, stealing, or lust. God is also a good God who wants the best for His children. He knows that our time on earth is full of spiritual choices and battles. In everyday life, we have many daily alternative directions to choose from that can move us to be either more Christ-like or on the path of evil. The Bible, our guiding light, lays out those choices so that we are not deceived by selections that will yield poor outcomes.

So, we now have blown it, and we sinned. Now what? We repent, and we confess our sins to God in Jesus' Name. We are accountable to God for how we live. God shows us how to break the cycle of sin. No matter how low we have sunk in our private lives, there is hope for each of us through confession of our sins and repentance. God calls us to repent (change our minds) and do the right things. Confession is the naked acknowledgment of how we have insulted God's holiness by our behavior and hurt God, others, and ourselves along the way.

Confession and repentance please God. As the apostle John says for God in 3 John, verse 4: *"I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth."*

But realize that helpless sinners can only survive by grace. Our strength is futile in itself. God's hands are gracious. They alone have the power to rescue us from certain destruction.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:5-10).

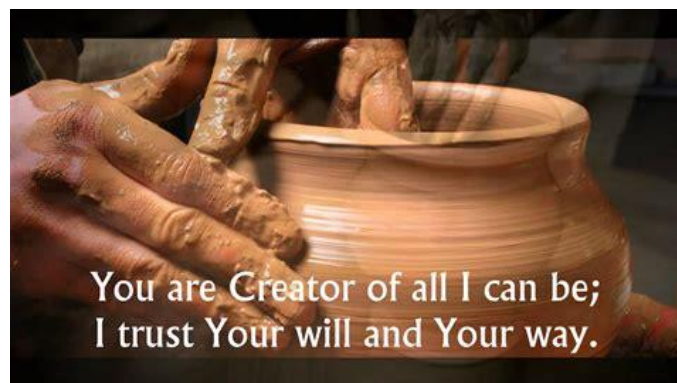
Let us pray. *O God, help us realize that the way we live our lives in private influences others. So dear Father, we need You to help us to fully walk in Your ways. We*

acknowledge that we have sinned against You by directing our own lives. We thank You for Having forgiven our sins through Christ's death on the cross for us. We now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of our lives. Fill us with the Holy Spirit as You commanded us to be filled and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if we asked in faith. We pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery

You are the Potter I am the Clay

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You



You are Creator of all I can be;
I trust Your will and Your way.

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You

Lord, You are the Potter and I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, have Thine own way
Lord, I need Your Spirit, Lord, I need Your grace;
Help me to run this Christian race.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, have Thine own way.
Lord, I give my life, I give my all to You,
To be a willing vessel, to use me through and through.

Lord, I need Your Spirit, Lord, I need Your grace;
Help me to run this Christian race.
Have Your way,
Have Your way in me.

The song "You Are the Potter, I Am the Clay" was written by the worship band, Vineyard. Vineyard is a Christian music group that has existed since the early 1980s. They are known for their worship music and have released many albums over the years.

The inspiration for the song likely came from the Bible verse in Isaiah 64:8 that speaks of God as the potter and His people as the clay. This metaphor is used throughout the Bible to describe God's relationship with His people, and it is a powerful image of surrender and submission.

The song was likely written as a reminder to Christians that we are not in control of our lives, but that God is the one who is shaping and molding us according to His plan. It is a call to surrender to God's will and allow Him to use us for His glory.

[YouTube Link](#) Brian Bontes, Vineyard Music

The Parable of the Sower and the Four Soils

Jesus tells the story... "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil and the underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns and grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." (Matthew 13:3-9)

Jesus was speaking to a large crowd by the Sea of Galilee. Some understood what Jesus was referring to when He spoke of the four different types of soil, but some did not. He was speaking on the condition of the heart. Jesus goes on to explain the meaning of this parable in the following verses 19-23.

"The seed that fell on the footpath represents those that hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. The evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's Word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's Word but all



too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's Word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty or even a hundred times as much as had been planted."

It's easy to agree with Jesus' words initially, but it's also easy to let life's pressures and attractions crowd Him out. Distractions and conflicts rob new believers of time to dive deeper into God's Word and grow from it. Those concerns stifle the guidance and support they need from more mature believers. Busyness, worries, and the desire to make more money downgrade God's priorities so our lives continue to produce nothing of real value. Guard your schedule and associations and resist the desire to acquire more things. The more time you spend with God and His Word, the more you will see what truly productive living looks like.

The four types of soil represent different responses to God's message. People respond differently because they are in different states of readiness. Some people are hardened, some are shallow, others are distracted by things of this world and worried about what tomorrow will bring, and some are receptive, ready to grow and bear fruit. How has God's Word taken root in your life? What kind of soil are you?

Heavenly Father, give us ears to hear Your Word, eyes to read Your Word and an open heart to receive what you have for us. Take away our busyness, worries and all the distractions in our lives so that You are most important and that we can live for You. Give us opportunities to share Your Word with those in our lives so that we will bear fruit for Your Kingdom! In Jesus' Name, Amen!

This is an adaptation of the parable of the sower and the four soils by Dr. Robert Jeffress, from [The Parables of the Bible](#).

Van Wert County Fair Christian Artists at the Gospel Tent

Tuesday, August 27th – Tribute Quartet
 Thursday, August 29th – Teen Portal 2:20
 Friday, August 30th – Divinity Trio
 Saturday, August 31st – Ronnie & Kim Booth
 Sunday, September 1st – Consumed by Fire
 Monday, September 2nd – Trinity, Stebe & Lisa Adams, Jim Fader

Partnering with our community is what makes the mission of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society succeed. Our goal is to see involvement from our local churches grow by supporting the Gospel Tent in prayer, finances, promotion, and attendance. An individual would pay more than the price of a Fair Season Pass to see any of our headliners at another venue, but through your giving, we can provide FREE Christian entertainment to everyone at the fair.

If you would like to sponsor/donate to the Christian Music planned for the 2024 Van Wert County Fair, please contact Kim Mason at 419-513-0323 or the Fair Office at 419-238-9270. Please make checks payable to the Van Wert County Agricultural Society, and please mark in the memo line for Gospel Music Entertainment, per Salem Church.

2024 Gymanfa Ganu



The 107th
GYMANFA GANU
Welsh Festival of Song

Sunday, September 1st, 2024
 Light Supper - 4:30 to 6:00 PM
 Gymanfa Ganu- 7:00 PM

Truman Littler - Director

Soloist - Elyse Hartman, Soprano
Special Music - "4Praising"
Connie O'Neill - Organist
Joyce Morris - Pianist

SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 15240 MAIN STREET
 VENEDOCIA, OH 45894

The annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on September 1st. Our director this year is Truman Littler. Truman Littler, originally from Oil City, Pennsylvania, is now in his third year as Choir Director at Elida Middle School where he teaches over 190 students in grades 6-8. In addition to teaching, he coaches Track & Field and

serves on the Building Leadership Team and PBIS committees. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Youngstown State University and is currently pursuing a Master of Music Education degree at Ohio University. Previously, he held the position of Assistant Conductor with the Stambaugh Chorus of Youngstown, including a notable performance at Carnegie Hall. He is a member of the Lima Symphony Chorus, Trinity Chancel Choir, and Lima Beane Chorus. His professional affiliations include the Ohio Music Education Association, American Choral Directors Association, and Ohio Association of Track & Cross-Country Coaches.

Organ: Connie O'Neill will be on the organ.

Piano: Joyce Morris will play the piano.

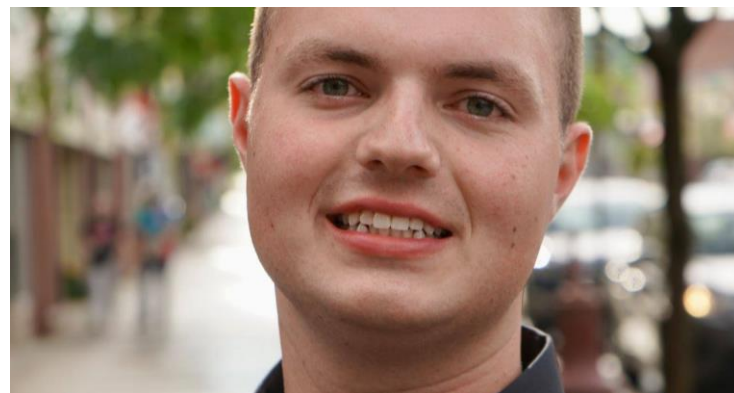
4Praising:

Cathy Woodward, Soprano
 Deb Imbrock, Alto
 Kevin Reeks, Tenor
 Truman Littler, Bass

Alleluia performed by Randall Thompson

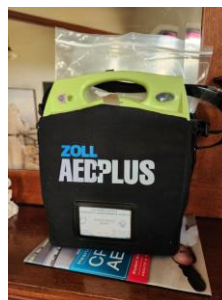
Soloist: Elyse Hartman, Soprano

The Lord's Prayer arranged by Albert H. Malotte



Truman Littler- Director for the Gymanfa Ganu.

Salem Church Defibrillator



The Salem Church has its own defibrillator for heart emergencies during church services and for local Venedocia emergencies. You can call the staff or church members to bring it to you. It has a recording that leads a novice through using it, just like an emergency crew.

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 \$68,943.03

Received to Date \$71,847.50

Salem Photos



2024-07-30 Coloring a Bible story at the start of the event.



Song time with hand motions



2024-07-30 Pledging allegiance to the American and Christian flags, prayers, and park Mission project discussion.



Planting seed in Memorial Park and raising funds as a Mission Project.

Vacation Bible School Mission Project



Craft project



"God's Word is a Lamp unto my Feet," decorated crosses and windchimes as finished crafts



Our Salem VBS day started with opening pledges to the flags, prayer in the sanctuary, and a discussion about which mission program the youth would donate to; the youth brought their monies for the

Vendocia's Veterans Park's restoration. The park was previously kept up by the late John Lloyd.

Our local Veterans Memorial Park urgently needs additional monetary donations to remove dead trees and purchase new ones.

Additionally, some of the flower beds need attention. Here is a picture of the youth picking up sticks in the park. Your generous donations will directly contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our beloved park.



If you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to *Venedocia Memorial Park* and mail it to *David Morris at 20311 Wren Landeck Road, Venedocia, OH. 45894*. We deeply appreciate your thoughtful consideration of a donation. Your support is invaluable to us!

Salem Acolytes



2024-07 31 Vacation Bible School helpers and many of the kids.



Chris Yeboah-Mantey



Greyson Hobbs

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 Travis Snyder

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

4 Phil Eutsler
4 Don Owens
6 Brook Coil
9 Denise Pugh
10 Lindsay Richards
11 David Hobbs
19 Melia Richards
20 Austin Kimmet
22 Jan Jones
27 Barb Owens
30 Kelly Lloyd

Anniversaries

10 Tyler & Morgan McConnell
12 David & Carla Breese
17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
27 Tom & Carl Emery

Prayer Concerns

Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Chris Bolton (broken ankle)
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
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

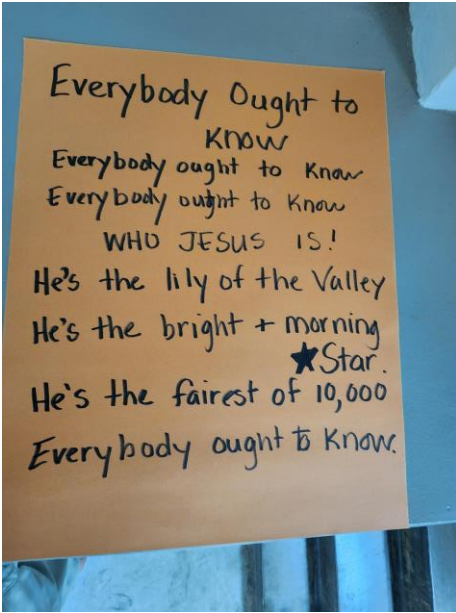
Jane Harter
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
MaKenna Kimmet (broken legs)
Jim Lloyd (leg & foot & heart issues)
David Morris (Zeb)
Tim Morris (broken ribs after a fall)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Bill Rowlett (Leg amputation)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

August 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Methodist Ch, 113 W. Central Ave.	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship	5	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree Restaurant in VW.	7	8 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Methodist Ch, 113 W. Central Ave	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	12	13 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree Restaurant in VW.	14	15 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Methodist Ch, 113 W. Central Ave	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	19	20 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree Restaurant in VW.	21	22 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Methodist Ch, 113 W. Central Ave	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship	26	27 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree Restaurant in VW.	28	29 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Methodist Ch, 113 W. Central Ave	30	31

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
August 4	Bill & Ruth Evans	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	LaDonna Allenbaugh
August 11	Jason & Danielle Lloyd	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Becky Reichard
August 18	Dave & Carla Breese	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Beth Conn
August 25	Kevin & Kristen Price	Mark & Missy Zielke	LaDonna Allenbaugh
		Greeter:	Johnathon Morris

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



2024-07-31 Vacation Bible School Song

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

August 2024 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 4

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a Psalm 78:23-29
Eph. 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

12th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 11

2 Sam. 18:5-9, 31-33 Psalm 34:1-8
Eph. 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

13th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 18

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Prov. 9:1-6 and
Psalm 34:9-14
Eph. 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

14th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 25

1 Kings 8(1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43).
Josh. 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22
Eph. 6:10-20 John 6:56-69