

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 17thth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Becky Reichard

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Marilyn Foust



Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship: Psalm 1 479

*Hymn: Sandon Welsh Hymnal, 27

Prayer of Confession: O God, we live our lives as best we can—dealing with complicated relationships and situations. **We are putting failures and disappointments behind us and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as possible.** But right now, we seldom have the right answers. **We seldom seek Your higher Wisdom in our lives. We move ahead.** Forgive us for not asking for Your insight. **Fill us with Your Wisdom to live lives of goodness and peace. We ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.** (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon Response **Glory Be to the Father** Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church Prayers of the People

Prayer Response **The Lord's Prayer**

Gideon's Talk Terry Reichard

Scripture Readings *Proverbs 31:10-31 601
Mark 9:30-37 920
James 3:13-4:3 1102

Time for Children

*Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 358

Sermon "The Virtuous Woman" Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

*Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation Insert

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

*Those who are able are invited to stand.



Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$2,298.10 Needed to Date: \$82,731.63
Rec'd 2024-09-15: \$1,970.00 Rec'd to Date: \$83,866.00

Sunday: **2024-09-15**
9:30 AM
Worship with Pastor Tom Emery and Terry Reichard with the Gideons. (nursery with Kim & Liz)
The Blessing of the Tractors and Harvest with the Potluck follows the Service.

Tuesday: **2024-09-17**
7:30 AM
7:00 PM
Men's Bible Study meets at the Orchard Tree
Women's Bible Study

Thursday: **2024-09-19**
Noon
The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Liberty Baptist Church at 501 East Third Street, Van Wert.

Sunday: **2024-09-22**
9:30 AM
10:45 AM
Worship with Pastor Tom Emery
(nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris)
Session Meeting

Announcements:

The **Annual Drive Your Tractor to Church / Blessing of the Harvest** is today. There will be a **Gideon offering** and a potluck lunch afterward.

The **Senior Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at noon.

Salem is collecting Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army. Each month, we collect different food. The September food is canned vegetables.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the newsletter. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc and pastortomemery@live.com.

Upcoming Birthdays

15 th Evana Yeboah-Manley	16 th Terri Lloyd	18 th Jayne Morris
18 th Morgan McConnell	18 th Tyler McConnell	19 th Gianna Richards
20 th Megan Jones	23 rd April Ellerbrock	

Upcoming Anniversaries

15 th Bob & Denise Pugh	28 th Eric & Jen Pugh
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P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142
www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Chris Bolton
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Dave Burnett (heart issues)
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Jane Harter
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)
David Morris (Zeb)
Tim Morris
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Denise Pugh (at home with a broken leg and other injuries)
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Evelyn Schwartz
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
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Rev. Thomas Emery
“The Virtuous Woman” Proverbs 31:10-31
Salem Presbyterian Church
September 15, 2024

Proverbs advise us to choose the Wisdom of God as our lifelong partner, for only He can bring us an exemplary life of security, honor, and joy. Our passage today is an acrostic poem using each Hebrew letter to exalt the virtues of a figurative wife who illustrates the principles of godly Wisdom; please note that she is the opposite of the promiscuous worldly woman in Proverbs who should best be shunned. As a virtuous wife, it speaks about a way of seeing and interacting with the world as a pathway that comes from God. The text bids us to seek this same divine perspective in our lives. Recent scholarship on the Proverbs passage links the “good wife” (better translated “woman of strength”) with the Lady of Wisdom (Proverbs 1–9).

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are warned against the demonic spirit of Jezebel, who is active in this world, leading us astray from God.

POINT TWO – True Wisdom, like Jesus, is to be desired, sought after, and trusted for our good (Proverbs 31:10-12).

POINT THREE – When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears [reverences] the LORD will be greatly praised (Proverbs 30:10 NLT).

ACTION POINT

The previous chapters of Proverbs and Psalm 1 (a Wisdom Psalm) tell us to: “seek God and meditate on God’s ordering of the world.” The Book of James continues this look at Wisdom, speaking of this gift as something that comes “from above” and bears “good fruits” in our lives. While Proverbs and Psalm 1 speak of the prosperity that Wisdom can bring us, Jesus and James remind us to embrace this heavenly perspective and to put aside the usual definitions of success and honor to seek the divine rewards on earth and in heaven. Wisdom is compared to the very personification of Christ and of all that we should be in Him. Why not seek godliness and not the false and empty things of this world that do not satisfy us?

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