Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Dave VanTilburg

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Marylin Foust

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship: Psalm 124 560

*<u>Hymn</u>: Take Time to Be Holy 376

Prayer of Confession: Creating and rescuing God, Your power amazes us. Yet, even in our amazement, we take too long to turn to You, forgetting that You are the power that makes and saves and sustains us. Even when we claim Your power, we often do so for our own success and comfort. We ignore Your command to use Your power on behalf of the weak, the small, and the vulnerable. In Jesus Christ, You show us that You are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we try to hoard You for ourselves, and we try to control who has access to Your love. Open our hearts, our lives, and our ministries so that we may become a doorway to Your realm. 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

<u>Prayer Response</u>	The Lord's Prayer

* Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 441

Mark 9:38-50 920

James 5:13-20 1103

Time for Children

*<u>Hymn:</u> Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sermon "God's Presence" Rev. Thomas Emery

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*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

*Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

*Prayer of Dedication

*<u>Hymn:</u> Deemster Welsh Hymnal, 29

*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: \$85,029.74 Rec'd 2024-09-15: \$1,723.25 Rec'd to Date: \$85,589.25

Sunday: 2024-09-22

9:30 AM Worship with Pastor Tom Emery

(Nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris)

10:45 AM Session Meeting

Tuesday: 2024-09-24

7:30 AM The Men's Bible Study meets at the Trinity Global

Methodist Church, 220 S. Walnut St.

7:00 PM The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs

Thursday: 2024-09-26

Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Liberty

Baptist Church at 501 East Third Street, Van Wert.

Sunday: 2024-09-29

9:30 AM Worship with Pastor Tom Emery

(nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese)

Announcements:

The **Senior Luncheon** will be held this 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.

The **Gomer Gymanfa** will be held on October 6, at 7 PM.

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

Upcoming Birthdays

23rd April Ellerbrock 25th Darlene Jones 26th Cindy Barnes 27th Brian Ellerbrock 27th Lisa Lloyed 29 Steve Richards

29th Steve Richards 30th Jack Blackmore

Upcoming Anniversaries

28th Eric & Jen Pugh



The Book of Esther

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | September 22, 2024 P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142 www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.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

Sheryl Hefner (cancer)

Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese

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)

Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
"God's Presence" Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Salem Presbyterian Church
September 22, 2024

Could Queen Esther have ever wondered where God was when her life began to crumble, and her burdens were overwhelming? Gaining perspective, Esther has not gone to the king to seek an exception for herself, nor is she only the spokesperson for her people. She has merged her identity—and destiny—with theirs. "My people and I have been sold for destruction," she says, and then continues by using the word "we." Mordecai's questions in 4:13–14 appear to have aroused some soul-searching in the young Jewess. Courage and loyalty have replaced timidity and self-protection.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – Power can be corrupting.

POINT TWO – We might wonder where God is when life crumbles.

POINT THREE – We can develop courage when remembering God's unfailing presence.

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

³ Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared. (*Esther 7:3 NLT*).

ACTION POINT

The king was furious, and that was the end of Haman. Who would become the next prime minister? Who else? The irony of ironies - it was Mordecai. As for the decree about killing the Jews on the thirteenth of Adar, that could not be changed - a royal decree is irrevocable even by the royal who decreed it. But a second decree was issued allowing Jews to defend themselves against any attack. That was enough to prevent the Holocaust. To this day, the Jewish people remember the treachery of Haman, the wisdom of Mordecai, and the bravery of Esther in the annual joyful celebration of Purim. Where was God in all that? While God is never mentioned in the narrative, the story turns out to be all right: evil is defeated, and justice triumphs. What can we conclude but that God was always there, making things come out right? Why not turn your cares over to the God who is in charge and loves you?

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