



**Sunday:**  
9:30 AM

**2024-09-22**

Worship with Pastor Tom Emery  
(Nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris)  
Session Meeting

10:45 AM

**Tuesday:**  
7:30 AM

**2024-09-24**

The Men's Bible Study meets at the Trinity Global Methodist Church, 220 S. Walnut St.  
The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs

7:00 PM

**Thursday:**  
Noon

**2024-09-26**

The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Liberty Baptist Church at 501 East Third Street, Van Wert.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 AM

**2024-09-29**

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](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc) and [pastortomemery@live.com](mailto:pastortomemery@live.com).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

23<sup>rd</sup> April Ellerbrock  
27<sup>th</sup> Brian Ellerbrock  
29<sup>th</sup> Steve Richards

25<sup>th</sup> Darlene Jones  
27<sup>th</sup> Lisa Lloyed  
30<sup>th</sup> Jack Blackmore

26<sup>th</sup> Cindy Barnes  
29 Steve Richards

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

28<sup>th</sup> Eric & Jen Pugh



*The Book of Esther*

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*Salem Presbyterian Church*

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Venedocia, Ohio | September 22, 2024

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142  
[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto: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

<sup>3</sup> 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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