

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 26 Issue 10

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## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.* <sup>6</sup> *Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take (NLT Proverbs 3:5-6).*

My wife Carol and I were married, and shortly afterward, we went to Pasadena, California, as I entered Fuller Theological Seminary. My home church encouraged me to apply for ordination, and I was accepted based on my resume, grades, and my years of church service. We both felt called to ministry. I went to become credentialed as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA, a good denomination at that time. Before we left, we stored what wouldn't fit into a station wagon, and we rented our home in Cincinnati to what appeared to be good tenants who stated that they wanted to stay there for years.

We prayed that God would open and close doors as we followed Him on our journey. Our budget was tight, and we took out student loans to make up for our shortfall in expenses, which was a normal practice among the students. I did receive minor scholarships.

Then, one day, almost three years into classes, we received a call that our tenants would not stay another year and had already vacated the house. My wife and I were distressed when we realized that we would have to leave school to make mortgage payments and return to Cincinnati to fix up the house and make it rentable again. By then, we had two children and another on the way.

We shared all this with our home Bible study group that we ran rental ads but got no good responses, and we were already short on funds to continue at school. They asked what our longest date before we run out of funds. We told them that we would decide by the end of next Sunday to leave if we didn't have a tenant. We prayed to God to provide answers before that time.

That Sunday night, we decided to pray again about our circumstances and ask God for His direction and provision. We wanted to follow God's will. After we



finished our prayer, exhausted from a long day, we went to bed and fell deeply asleep.

Suddenly, just before midnight, our phone woke us. It was a couple we knew on that side of town who had two kids. Hours before, they dealt with a house fire that rendered their house unusable. They lost everything in the fire. They needed a place to move immediately that would take their adopted kids and their two trained dogs. They already knew our house. We appreciated that they were committed Christians and reliable people with solid hospital jobs.

We told them my father-in-law had an extra key and would get it to them immediately. We found out that their church was already helping them with their other needs.

We all praised God together. After we hung up, my wife jumped up and down on the bed in glee like a little kid, praising God that He had answered our prayer and that our friends were being taken care of. We kept saying, "God is good!" It was a real faith-building experience.

God is in control of all things, including tragedies. Our Good God makes all things come together for those in Christ Jesus. Why not put your complete trust in God? God loves you and wants a loving relationship with you!

*Pastor Tom Emery*

*As for His failing you, never dream of it — hate the thought of it. The God who has been sufficient until now should be trusted to the end.* — Charles H. Spurgeon

## I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

1 I don't know about tomorrow,  
I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from its sunshine,  
For its skies may turn to gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future,  
For I know what Jesus said,  
And today I'll walk beside Him,  
For He knows what is ahead.

### *Refrain:*

Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.  
2 Every step is getting brighter,  
As the golden stairs I climb;  
Every burden's getting lighter;  
Every cloud is silver lined.  
There the sun is always shining,  
There no tear will dim the eye,  
At the ending of the rainbow,  
Where the mountains touch the sky. *[Refrain]*

3 I don't know about tomorrow,  
It may bring me poverty;  
But the one who feeds the sparrow,  
Is the one who stands by me.  
And the path that be my portion,  
May be through the flame or flood,  
But His presence goes before me,  
And I'm covered with His blood. *[Refrain]*

[Author: Ira F. Stanphill \(1950\)](#)  
[YouTube Petersons Link](#)

## What To Do When Your Faith Is Slipping

“Why should I keep following God when He isn't answering my prayers?” That unspoken question haunted me. I wished I didn't feel this way. I told myself I should just keep trusting. For all my trying, though, the uncertainty continued. And with it, accusations against God's character chipped away at my faith.

With gentleness and grace, God drew near, reminding me He already knew my thoughts. He invited me to bring them into the open. Voice the feelings. Verbalize the doubts. Lay bare my soul before the One who sees me as I am and loves me.

As I poured out my disillusionment and admitted what my head was saying about His heart, I found myself on holy ground. He met me there in a deeply personal way. Rather than bypassing my pain or scolding my lack of faith, He



received my questions. With His still, small voice, He asked me a question in return, the same question he'd asked Peter in [John 6:67](#), “Do you want to walk away?”

As I pondered His question, I found myself answering as Peter did: “Where would I go? You have the words of life” (v 68). I remembered our history—how He delivered me from a food addiction as a teenager and how He healed my broken heart as a young adult. I'd tasted of his goodness. I'd experienced his grace. He was as real to me as the people in my own family.

No, I didn't want to walk away. Despite the pain in my soul, even though He had yet to answer my prayers, He was still the same God. Still loving. Still powerful. Still *for* me and worthy of my trust.

I left that encounter a different person, not because my circumstances had changed or because He'd promised me they would. On the contrary, He gave me Himself. He let me experience His open-hearted welcome, His understanding, and His soul-mending grace.

When our faith is slipping, God offers to be our firm foundation ([Isaiah 33:6](#)). He stands ready with open arms to receive us in our brokenness, eager to welcome us home ([Luke 15:20](#)). He'll never reject those who come to him ([John 6:37](#)). If you find yourself in a similar spot, I invite you to make space to pour out your heart before God.

### **Prayers for When Your Faith Is Slipping** **1. When You Have No Words**

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings” ([Romans 8:26](#)).

*Lord, there's so much simmering inside me right now, I'm not even sure how to pray. You see what's going on in my heart. You understand my situation more clearly than I do. How do you want me to pray?*

God may impress a specific request or direction for prayer on your heart. If so, talk with Him about this. If not, take comfort in knowing His Spirit is praying on your behalf. You can also use the [Psalms](#) as a springboard for your prayers, personalizing them as if you were the one penning them. For example, based on [Psalm 23](#), I would pray something like this:

*Lord, You are my Shepherd, the One who meets my needs. Please feed my soul and give my heart rest. Make me like a sheep grazing in open pasture beside a quiet brook. Renew my strength and guide me. I want to honor You. Right now, Lord, I feel like I'm walking through a dark valley. Please silence the fear clawing at my soul. Help me sense Your nearness. Protect, comfort, and care for me. Thank you for Your ever-present goodness and mercy. Please quiet my heart with your love.*

## 2. When Emotions, Questions, and Doubts Overwhelm

"Pour out your hearts before him! God is our shelter!" ([Psalm 62:8b](#)).

*God, I feel \_\_\_\_\_ (list your emotions.) Please help me understand these emotions and why I'm feeling them. Show me what's going on beneath the surface. I don't understand \_\_\_\_\_ (list your questions.) Help me see my situation from your perspective. I'm struggling to believe \_\_\_\_\_ (list your doubts about His character or His Word.) Reveal the facet of your character I most need to experience right now. Thank you for receiving me, for not pushing me away to fix my own problems.*

The Bible describes God as sitting on "the throne of grace" ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). Jesus threw open the door to His presence, and He beckoned the needy to draw near ([Mark 15:37-38](#)). We can approach Him with confidence, knowing He wants to listen to our hearts and reveal His.

## 3. When You Need God to Intervene



"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life" ([Philippians 4:6](#), The Message).

*Lord, you are a kind Father who wants to give good gifts to your children. I have some pretty big needs right now. I*

*ask You to work in my heart ([Romans 12:2](#)). Where there's doubt, give me faith. Where there's anger, grant me [forgiveness](#). Where there's anxiety, let me know your peace. Where there's disillusionment, impart hope. Where there's brokenness, bring your healing.*

*Please work in my circumstances, too. I need You to move \_\_\_\_\_ (list your specific requests). Provide for my needs. Reconcile wounded relationships. Allow me to experience both Your mighty power and Your tender care ([2 Chronicles 16:9](#), [Psalm 139:3](#)).*

When Jesus instructs us to ask, seek, and knock, He bases this invitation on the generous heart of our Father ([Matthew 7:7-11](#)). When He tells us not to worry, He reasons that our Father wants to take care of us ([Matthew 6:25-34](#)). Because our God loves us, we can ask Him for whatever we need.

## 4. When You Feel Alone

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" ([Ecclesiastes 4:12](#)).

*Father, I pray for community. Please surround me with people who can help bear my burdens ([Galatians 6:2](#)). Send people into my life who've walked a similar path. Use Your children to speak grace and truth into my circumstances. Provide healers to help me walk toward wholeness. Give me vision for how I'll be able to do the same for others.*

God works relationally, often through the hands and feet of His people. Those who've met God in their own struggles are equipped to help others meet him there, too. Ask God to show you how you can seek out this kind of community.

## 5. When You're Choosing to Trust

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God" ([Psalm 42:5](#)).

*Thank you, God, for welcoming me as I am. Thank you for how you've met with me in my struggle. I long for You to change my circumstances, but I believe You're trustworthy, even if You don't answer the way I'm asking you to. "I do believe! Help me overcome my unbelief" ([Mark 9:24](#)).*

When our faith is fragile, God beckons us close. He invites us to process what we're thinking and feeling with Him, to experience His nearness, and to allow Him to heal and strengthen our souls.

Adapted from: [5 Comforting Prayers for When Your Faith Is Slipping](#), by Meredith Mills. Bible Study Tools. Updated September 25, 2024

## Trust God At All Times

When I was first injured, I was filled with so many doubts and fears of the future that I couldn't imagine ever mustering enough trust in God. I figured only holier-than-thou saints on bended knee, with eyes closed and hands clasped, could trust God with something as awful as paralysis. Only Plaster of Paris saints on lofty pedestals could trust Him at all times?

Psalms 62:18 paints a different picture. Without a hint of exaggeration, the psalmist tells us to "Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us". We can trust God at all times – not only when it's convenient or when it makes sense or when it's easy, but also when it's counterintuitive to everything within us.

Yes, it is possible to trust God in every situation. How? Well, through Jesus. He gives us the command to trust Him, then He provides you the power and the will to do it. The minute you "pour out your heart before Him," He animates and energizes your trust in Him. The instant you recognize that "God is a refuge for us," He is right there with you, assuring you that you don't have to go it alone. To trust in the Lord at all times may sound daunting, but it is possible as you pour out your heart before Him and make Him your refuge.

When you learn to trust God at all times, you won't be Mother Teresa, but you will develop faith that is readily available. Your faith will be easily within reach; you will effortlessly and gently take hold of it. Your faith will be there, ready to believe, trust, yield, and celebrate your trustworthy God.

Meditate on this...What barriers prevent you from fully trusting God?

Adapted from: The Practice of the Presence of Jesus – Daily meditations on the Nearness of our Savior. By Joni Eareckson Tada with John Sloan

## Election Day Supper

### **ELECTION NIGHT SUPPER**

Hosted by **Salem Presbyterian Church,**  
Venedocia

Tuesday, **November 5, 2024**

**4:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Venedocia Lions Club Building

**Sit down or carry out Featuring:**

*Lions Club Sausage, Chicken Sandwiches  
Homemade Soup and Pie*

## Gymanfa Ganu News

Another [Gymanfa Ganu](#) is in the books. Our Music Committee would like to thank all those who helped make it a success, including all of you who attended and added your voices!

As some of you know, we conducted a survey this year about whether we should change the date or the times of the current Gymanfa. The results tell us that we should keep the Gymanfa on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend; however, in the coming year for 2025, we will start it 1/2 hour earlier, at 6:30 PM. We felt this would help keep us from getting out late and give everyone time to socialize afterward. No decision has been made about whether we will have a meal or just social snacks for next year's event.

We want to thank Shiela Chilcote-Collins for all her help with marketing and Gloria Leiter for all her help setting up the dinner. Without the volunteers' help, this event would not be possible.

We look forward to planning a new year of music during our morning services and our Christmas program, Advent services, and other special days. We welcome any suggestions and love volunteers. So if you are finding some extra time on your hands or have some new ideas for us to try, please let us know.

Mark your calendar for **August 31, 2025**, at 6:30 pm. More details will come!

## 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 \$89,625.94

Received to Date \$85,589.25

## Salem Scenes



2024-09-08 New Toddler Sunday School class.



2024-09-01 Gymanfa Ganu "Song Festival" Truman Littler conducting



2024-09-15 Morris family coming to church



2024-09-15 Blessing of the Tractors and the Harvest Salem front step ceremony



2024-09-15 Blessing of the Harvest and Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday Definitely green color John Deere is the most popular!



2024-09-15 Blessing of the Tractors Potluck



2024-09-25 Salem Senior Bingo Luncheon with "Back to School" as its theme

# 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**

Lochaven, 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. 5<sup>th</sup> St  
Delphos, OH 45833

### **Ann Rees**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Dr  
Van Wert, Oh 45891

## Serving our Country

### **Cory McCollow**

(U.S. Coast Guard)  
7225 Altura Place  
Oakland, CA 94605

### **Madison Pugh-USCGA**

64 Main St  
Floor 3  
Stonington, CT 06378

### **Dillon Ellerbrock**

(Marines)  
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

### **Corbin Evans (Marines)**

Grandson of Bill & Ruth  
Evans

### **Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler**

(National Guard)  
14975 Van Wert-Mercer  
Co. Line Road  
Venedocia, OH 45894

## Birthdays

2 Kory Mullenhour  
8 Bob McCollow  
13 David Breese  
13 Carter Dunlap  
13 Kayla Owens/Mumford  
14 Jason Kimmet  
22 Ashley Finn  
23 Remi Finn  
25 Josh Hobbs  
28 Keaton Adkins  
29 Nancy Swygart  
30 Jeff Coil

## Away at College

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

**Isaiah Pugh** (at University of Toledo)  
2632 Greenway Street  
Toledo, OH 43607

**We have no Condolences to list this month.**  
**XXXXXXXXXX**

## Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Heather Matthews  
7 Jason & Sarah Kimmet  
21 Bob & Kathy McCollow  
30 Jeff Coil & Kim

## Prayer Concerns

Chris Bolton (broken ankle)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Dave Burnett (heart)  
Tom Burnett (tractor accident)  
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Millie Fletcher  
Ellen Friesner  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Jane Harter  
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)

Carla Hillabrand (Medical issues)  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
Jim Lloyd (leg & foot & heart issues)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Tim Morris (broken ribs after a fall)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Denise Pugh (broken leg & other injuries)  
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)  
Bill Rowlett (Leg amputation)  
Evelyn Schwartz  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

# October 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	2	<b>3</b> Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets	4	5
<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Worship World-Wide Communion Peacemaking Offering	7	<b>8</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	9	<b>10</b> Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets	11	12
<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	14	<b>15</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	16	<b>17</b> Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets	18	19
<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	21	<b>22</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	<b>23</b> Noon-Senior Luncheon	<b>24</b> Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	25	26
<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Worship Budget & Nomination Information is due	28	<b>29</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible study at Salem	30	<b>31</b> Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg.		

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Organist</b>
Oct 6	Mark & Missy Zielke	Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	
Oct 13	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	
Oct 20	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	
Oct 27	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Mark & Missy Zielke	
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Morgan McConnell

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



**2024-09-01 Gymanfa Ganu "Song Festival"**  
Also a [HyperLink](#) to its program

## *Sounds of Salem* *Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

Secretary E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

### **Oct 2024 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B**

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#### **20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 6**

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Job 1:1; 2:1-10      Psalm 26  
Heb. 1:1-4, 2:5-12      Mark 10:2-16

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#### **21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 13**

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Job 23:1-9, 16-17      Psalm 22:1-15  
Heb. 4:12-16; 2:5-12      Mark 10:17-31

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#### **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 20**

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Job 38:1-7, 16-17      Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Heb. 5:1-10; 2:5-12      Mark 10:35-45

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#### **27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 27**

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Job 42:1-6, 10-17      Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)  
Heb. 7:23-28      Mark 10:46-52

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