

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

²⁵In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25 NLT).

The respected pollster George Barna shocked American Christians with his recent polling results.

He explains why America is on the brink of disaster. Less than half of church-attending, Bible-upholding Evangelicals are “attentive to news about politics and government.” They are ignorant of what is happening in the world. Further, only thirty percent of evangelicals vote in elections. If Christians do not participate in the marketplace of ideas in the culture, secular anti-Christian ideas will gain voting dominance.

God holds us accountable for the resources He provides us. The Gospel of Christ made the American experiment exceptional in the world. We were then blessed with prosperity. We were a nation of laws, not of men, and those laws were built on Christian morals and principles found in the Bible. Public schools were created in the 1700s to teach citizens primarily how to read the Bible. The Founders knew that government was not the answer; the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the true answer to a fallen world.

Currently, in America, marriage is being redefined, tax-funded abortion and sex changes are being pushed, the schools are teaching values attacking our faith, Christians are called a “hate” group, our borders are wide open, our media is biased toward one party, contrary opinions are “canceled” for speaking up, our national defense and security are being compromised while wars are breaking out on several continents, our laws are not being fairly enforced, our legal system is weaponized against perceived political enemies just like corrupt Latin America dictatorships, our national debt is out of control, Israel and American Jews are maligned, and religious liberty is under attack in schools, colleges, and in the workplace. We do not know our history as Americans and are taught to be ashamed of what we do know.

I am not fond of either candidate’s personality, but I believe God will hold us accountable for our stewardship of our God-given right to vote. God uses

flawed people to carry out His will. Both presidential candidates are undoubtedly flawed. Don’t vote for the candidate. Vote for the policies and judges each candidate endorses, using the Bible as your guide.



Voting is a sacred trust given by God. If we avoid this duty, we do great harm to ourselves, our children, and our nation. We have only to read the Book of Judges to see how judgment from God comes shortly after “everyone does what he thinks is right in his own eyes” rather than as God commands us to live.

One of my earlier Cincinnati church pastorate communities, Lockland, Ohio, has recently doubled in population as recent continuous floods of new immigrants, primarily from the African nation of Mauritania, moved in and quickly overcrowded to the breaking point rental buildings and homes. Crime greatly increased. A foreign culture is trying to dominate this older, once tranquil elderly German neighborhood. The mayor calls the school system, public assistance, and other services “unsustainable.” He demands federal assistance to fund the expenses of people being steered to that community by the government; no one seems to be listening. We need a wake-up call to national events and to government actions before our nation is lost.

Remember, educating ourselves and voting is not just a right; it is a duty.

Pastor Tom Emery

Pledge to Pray, Vote, and Stand in 2024!

Below is a prayer for our nation.

I recognize that my country, the United States of America, is in need of moral and spiritual repair. And I confess that my own sin has, at times, contributed to the current state of affairs. However, I firmly believe in the truth of Scripture and trust God when He promises:

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Therefore, I pledge today to pray, vote, and stand for my country.

I will **PRAY** for my country and its leaders as commanded by Scripture (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We are in a spiritual battle. We need God to touch our hearts, guide our steps, and strengthen our hands. No matter how difficult the circumstances may seem, I know God promises to answer when I pray to Him.

I will **VOTE** in local, state, and national elections for leaders who will stand for biblical truth. The Lord has said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48). As a Christian and an American, I recognize the great responsibility I have to steward the republic with which we have been entrusted, one nation under God. I will vote in a manner that seeks the good of the city in which God has placed me (Jeremiah 29:7).

I will **STAND** for biblical truth, both when it is popular and when it is not. I realize that it may be uncomfortable and even costly to stand. As God gives me strength, I will stand anyway. I desire to be strong and have courage in the Lord, "taking up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13). The apostle Paul tells us, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good... (Galatians 6:10).

As I have the opportunity, I will **PRAY, VOTE, AND STAND IN 2024 and the rest of my life!**

The First Thanksgiving

What is the significance of the First Thanksgiving? Remove the feast, the traditions, and all the cooking; at its very core is giving thanks. This national holiday remains the most widely celebrated and unique occasion in the United States.

Thanksgiving is one of the most celebrated national holidays in the United States of America. On this day, people from the US celebrate and give thanks for what they have by feasting, usually with roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and a huge pumpkin pie.

This holiday, which occurred nearly 400 years ago, is one of the holidays that people look forward to the most



because they can be with their family and talk about how blessed they have been in the present year.

Hardships of the First Thanksgiving

In September 1620, the Mayflower sailed from England to the promised New World. 102 passengers aboard the ship survived 66 days of treacherous seas. Finally, they arrived at Cape Cod, which was not their original destination, and then crossed to Massachusetts Bay, where they could establish the village of Plymouth.

Because of this, most of the passengers aboard the Mayflower stayed on board and suffered diseases. Only half of the crew survived. In March, they finally moved inland and were visited by the English-speaking Abenaki tribe.

Several days later, Squanto, a member of another tribe called Pawtuxet and a kidnapping survivor of an English sea captain, taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in rivers, and filter poisonous plants from their farm. Squanto's intervention was very fortunate, as many were suffering from malnutrition. Additionally, Squanto was also able to help the Pilgrims ally with a more powerful tribe called the Wampanoag. The alliance was momentous and remains the only historical example of a good alliance between the European colonists and Native Americans.

A Thanksgiving

Finally, the Pilgrims could harvest their crops after so many long months of less to no food. Governor William Bradford, the Pilgrims' leader, organized a feast for this momentous event.

This was recorded to have taken place in the autumn of 1621 in Plymouth. On this day, the celebration was held with the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag. They shared the autumn harvest, and the feast lasted for three days as Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow who wrote:

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with

a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Although this celebration was not acknowledged as an ongoing Thanksgiving that day, President Abraham Lincoln later declared it a national holiday.

Adapted from: "What Happened on the First Thanksgiving?" by Gloria Dy. Christianity.com. Dec. 29, 2020.



lives, suffering, giving, work and time to mean something. Paul writes to Timothy that "the meaning of true life" is "extravagant generosity" and a willingness "to share" – in other words, to pour out one's life for others just as Christ did for us. Trust God to bring you a sense of purpose and meaning as you pour out your life for others the way Jesus did.

Everything you need for today, God will provide for you. God knows our daily needs, whether they are small or large. God knows we are needy because He made us that way. He made us needy so that He could meet those needs. Not all at once, but day by day. He is our Provider today, just as He was our Provider yesterday, and just as He will provide for all of our needs again tomorrow.

Adapted from: "Trusting God and Praising Him." God's Daily Promise. 2022. Life Outreach International

Trusting God and Praising Him with Thanksgiving

This is the time of year when we look at those things in our lives for which we are thankful. At least, that's what we're supposed to be doing. It is, after all, the season of Thanksgiving. Here are Bible truths to help you examine where you are regarding trusting God and being grateful for what He has given you.

Your heart should be so grateful for the things of God – His power, authority, and trustworthiness – that it spills over into every area of your life. When you practice gratitude, when you look for things to be grateful for, your outlook improves, your attitude at work

improves, your health improves, your relationships improve; and you begin looking for ways to be generous and suddenly discover joy in little, every day, ordinary things that most people miss. You will no longer have to think about it when someone asks what you are thankful for because gratitude will spill right out of you.

When Jesus sent the disciples out into the nearby areas to preach the Gospel and bring healing to those in need, He told them not to worry about any of life's little necessities – food, clothing, toiletries, money. He told them they would be well provided for when they were out doing His work, and He asked them to trust Him. Sometimes trusting God for our basic needs takes a greater leap of faith than believing Him for big things. While you are out doing the work He has called you to do, don't forget to trust Him for your daily bread.

What is the meaning of life? Perhaps this is a question you have asked yourself or asked of God. You are not alone. We all have a hunger for purpose. We want our

Salem All Saints Day

All Saints Day is a Christian "Memorial Day" that honors all saints, known or unknown. God calls saints those who trust in Christ alone for salvation. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer says the holiday stands for "the unity of Christians of all ages, countries, and races in Christ, and the perfection of that unity in heaven."

Naming of the Saints: **Wayne McMichael, Doug Smith, Ron Owens, Tressa Dicus, John Lloyd, Andy Francis, Dale Kuiesza, Adam Clark, Larry Miller, Nancy Shaffer, Travis Snyder, Ryan Adam, Owen Richard Morris, and Doris Price.**

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

Music Committee News

The Advent Christmas Program kicks off Dec. 1st. The Advent Breakfast is after the Service that morning. The Manse Christmas Party is on Dec. 8th. The Children's Christmas Program is on December 15th. The Christmas Eve service is at 9:00 pm Dec. 24th.

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

Trustees Update

A new toilet has been installed in the church's upstairs bathroom, and the waterlines at both the church and the manse have been repaired.

Other News

The Ohio High School Athletic Association recognized Bob McCollow at its Columbus banquet this summer for his 50-year service officiating sports games.

Dominic Adkins obtained his American FFA Degree. He is the son of Toby and Elizabeth Adkins and the grandson of Nell Jean Wienken.



2024-10 Dominic Adkins

Welsh Recipes

Apple Pastry – Pastai Afal

8 oz. prepared short-crust pastry
4 to 5 oz. stewed apples, sweetened to taste
Granulated sugar
A little milk

Set oven to 425 F. Divide the pastry in half and roll out on a lightly floured surface to form two even-sized rounds. Spread the stewed apple (which should not be too wet) on one round, leaving a clean edge. Moisten

the edge with milk and place the other round on top, sealing very well. Brush lightly with milk and carefully place on top, sealing very well. Brush lightly with milk and carefully place on a lightly buttered baking sheet. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until golden. Sprinkle thickly with granulated sugar and serve at once, either plain or with custard. Served 4 to 6.

From cookbooks gifted to Salem by Evelyn Schwartz.
Favorite Welsh Recipes. Salmon publishers. p. 43.

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 \$98,818.34
Received to Date \$98,697.69

Salem Scenes



2024-10-20 Youth Bell Choir



2024-10-20 Children's Bell Choir



2024-10-23 Senior Luncheon and Bingo. Doris Evans, Leroy Kill; Kim Coil, Sarah Kimmert and Marilyn Foust.



2024-10-26 Halloween Party and judging event at the Lions Club



2024-10-26 Venedocia Trick-or-Treaters: Audrey and Owen McCollow;



2024-10-27 Youth Sunday School



2024-10-27 Children's Sunday School



2024-10 New Memorial Park trees planted with the Vacation Bible School fundraising

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

"Young at Heart"

Paul 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

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

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

Condolences to the family of Doris Price

Birthdays

1 Avery Zielke
1 Dan Lloyd
5 Carla Breese
5 Missy Zielke
10 Lucas Mullenhour
11 Sarah Kimmet
12 Catie Emery
18 Boone Finn
25 Owen McCollow
29 Kathy McCollow
30 Mike Breese

Prayer Concerns

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 (recovering leg surgery)
David Morris (Zeb)
Tim Morris (broken ribs after a fall)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Bev Place
Paul Price
Denise Pugh (broken leg & other injuries)
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Evelyn Schwartz
Marilyn Stockton
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

November 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	2	3 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the First Baptist Church, 13887 Jennings Rd., Van Wert	1	2
3 9:30 AM Worship All Saints Day 10:45 Joint session and Trustee meeting	4	5 4:30-7:00 Election supper at the Lion's Club Remember to vote	6 Budget and nomination reports due to the secretary	7 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the First Baptist Church, 13887 Jennings Rd., Van Wert	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship Recognize Veteran's Day Budget available to the congregation	11	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	13	14 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the First Baptist Church, 13887 Jennings Rd., Van Wert	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship with guest Pastor Harry Tolhurst Vote on budget and officers	18	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	20	21 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the First Baptist Church, 13887 Jennings Rd., Van Wert	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship Van Wert County Thanksgiving Service at Liberty Baptist Church 6 PM	25	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study	27	28 Thanksgiving Day. Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the First Baptist Church.	29	30

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
Nov 3	Denise, Kelly, Liz	Mark & Missy Zielke	Connie O'Neill
Nov 10	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Mark & Missy Zielke	Jake Wilder
Nov 17	Bill & Ruth Evans	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Ronnie Miller
Nov 24	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Becky Reichard
		Greeter:	Denise Pugh

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



2024-10—26 Charlotte McConnell Trick or Treating

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

Nov 2024 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
24th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 3	
Ruth 1:1-18	Psalm 146
Heb. 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
25th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 10	
Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17	Psalm 127
Heb. 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
26th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 17	
1 Sam. 1:4-20	1 Sam. 2:1-10
Heb. 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
Christ the King/Reign of Christ – Nov 24	
2 Sam. 23:1-7	Psalm 132:1-18
Rev. 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37