

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Although I was not raised a Christian, I became one in my early 20s, and I have many early Christian childhood memories. I remember as a youngster how my family would go downtown Christmas shopping by riding the electric streetcar bus; I always hoped to sit in the back seat to see the electric sparks lighting up the cold winter air from the overhead contact wires.

I remember how the department stores were decorated for the season. Mechanical reindeer moved their heads, and Rudolf's nose would glow red. As you passed, the stores would have speaker music playing on the sidewalks. Christmas lights were everywhere. I would beg my parents to let me have a longer time seeing the electric trains circling the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company showroom.

Later, when I was four, my family brought us kids to the Cincinnati Gardens to see the Ice Capades Christmas show. The skaters circled and danced and had Christmas season-themed costumes on display. They skated ever so gracefully. For the final act, they depicted Joseph and Mary with the Manger Scene. The star shined brightly. Angels danced around in shimmery outfits. The shepherds arrived with their animals. The kings arrived asking, "Where is the Christ Child?" The lights were dimmed, the candles were lit, and the spotlight centered on baby Jesus and the Christmas star. As a final act, everyone broke out singing "Silent Night."

I sang along with the crowd. It was a magical moment unlike any I had experienced before. I sensed the Holiness of the moment and the divinity of Christ worshipped by many. I wanted to know more about who this Jesus was.

Not everyone is born into a Christian family. When I reached my early twenties, my full faith started to click with me. Having faith and being a Christian means consciously choosing to follow God daily. It was like the first time I took the car out of cruise control and started driving and taking more ownership of my faith. Salem reenacts the Christmas story in several ways to reach out and share Christ.



What a special moment to realize when life clicked that God became a helpless baby born in poverty to a teenage couple. Jesus was not born in a privileged palace. He was born so that we can relate to our Savior, who was born to die to pay for our wrongs so that we can be made right with God and go to the promised heaven where all things will be made right and perfect. All our wrongs are forgiven by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross if He is our Lord. Isn't that what we all deeply desire?

The reason for the season is not shopping, entertainment, or food. Somehow, the real message gets through. Christ is the reason for the season! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Tom Emery

Silent Night

The original lyrics come from a poem written in 1816 by the Austrian priest Josef Mohr (1792–1848). The story goes that when the church organ broke down on Christmas Eve in 1818, Josef asked Franz Gruber (1787–1863) to compose a melody for the poem.

Franz created a guitar accompaniment, and at the mass that evening they performed the new song together with the children's choir. The English lyrics was written by John Freeman Young (1820–1885) in 1859.

Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, All is bright
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
 Holy Infant so Tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.
 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight!
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ the Saviour is born!
 Christ the Saviour is born!
 Silent night, holy night!
 Wondrous star, lend thy light!
 With the angels let us sing
 Alleluia to our King!
 Christ the Saviour is here,
 Jesus the Saviour is here!
 Silent night, Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus Lord at thy birth,
 Jesus Lord at thy birth.
[YouTube Link](#)

Even more potent than the bustle of the day is "silence." We don't hear much of it. One night, everything changed. It was the night that the promises of the prophets were fulfilled. That night, God healed the divide between God and man. God came to earth to live and to love His people face to face. He was Emmanuel, God with us. All was calm, and all was bright. This silence is worth seeking. It is worth turning everything down to sit in awe and wonder of this child of the promise!



The Christian Trinity and Prayer

"Through Him, we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." Ephesians 2:18

The Holy Trinity is one of the mysteries of the almighty God. God is One, manifesting Himself in three persons: the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. I am not bothered by the fact that it is a great mystery and difficult to grasp. If I could understand everything, there would not be much to it. This is why the Christian life is a life of faith. Philosophy might attempt to explain it, but it cannot change. Christianity changes lives even though some of the Bible's explanations of God's grandeur and grace are unexplainable.



We often hear skeptics exclaim that the word *"Trinity"* cannot be found in the Bible. But we do not have to see the word to discover the truth throughout Scripture. The Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is present at Jesus' baptism. The Son stands there, the Father speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends on the Lord like a dove from heaven (Luke 3:22).

When we come to Ephesians 2:18, we have reached one of the mountain peaks of Scripture, and the secret is found in three prepositions – *to*, *through*, and *by*. In this short verse is found the mystery of the Trinity in relationship to our prayer life. Prayers are to be offered "to the Father." He is the Author and Initiator of our salvation. Our prayers will be offered "through Him (the Son)." He is the One who came to execute God's plan of redemption through His substitutional and voluntary death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. Finally, our prayers are offered "by one Spirit." He is the One who convicts of sin, empowers us for service, and helps us in our prayer life. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit all work together for you and me to access God.

The **Source** of Prayer – Prayer is “to the Father.” All true prayers begin when I claim my relationship with Him and begin to know and love Him in the intimacy of Father and child. For me, this relationship began when I was seventeen and trusted in Christ as my personal Savior. Since that day, I have grown to know Him as my heavenly Father. He is the source of our prayer life.

The only way God can be called “Father” is if we have been born again spiritually into His family through what Jesus called, in John, being born again (John 3:7). It might surprise some of us to know that we are not all God’s children. We are all God’s creation, but the Bible states clearly that “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to be called children of God” (John 1:12). And Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, makes it crystal clear, saying that we become children of God “through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26).

The gospel writers record that Jesus began prayer over seventy times using the word “Father.” What a privilege for you and me to acknowledge that He is the source of prayer by addressing Him as Father. When we pray, we are not trying to appease a demanding parent, but we are children who, because of our relationship with Him, can come boldly before our Father’s throne (Hebrews 4:16).

The **Course** of Prayer – If the Father is the source of prayer, the Son is the course through which we go to make our petitions known. Prayer is “through the Son.” In fact, there is no access to the Father unless we go through the Son. The apostle Paul makes this plain: “There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Apart from Christ, we have no access to God.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest. In the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would take the blood of a sacrificial lamb, enter beyond the veil of the Holy of Holies, and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat of the ark. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, made the final sacrifice for sin. He shed His blood on the cross, died, and rose the third day, passed through the heavens, and presented His blood at the throne of God. No wonder Paul said, “Through Him, we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

It is through Christ – not through the church, not through a priest, not through the Virgin Mary, but through Him and Him alone. Jesus is the course of true prayer.



The **Force** of Prayer – Effective, powerful prayer is “by one Spirit.” If the Father is the source, and the Son is the course, then the Spirit is the force behind it all. The Holy Spirit prays in us and through us empowers us to pray with results. Jude reminds us that we are built up in our most holy faith when “praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude v. 20).

It is the Holy Spirit who “helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought” (Romans 8:26). We can read the great prayers of saints down through the ages and recite prayers by rote from memory. But without the Holy Spirit, we will never be effective in our prayer journey. It is only through Christ and “by one spirit” that we can touch the Father in prayer.


Access to the Father is the goal of all prayer. He is the source. We must go through His Son and be empowered by His Spirit. Yes, “*For through Him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*”

ICE – Today, when you see a piece of ice in your glass, let it be a reminder that H₂O is found in three forms: liquid, solid, or steam. Three manifestations of the same H₂O. And so, the holy Trinity manifests Himself in three persons: the Father, who is the **source** of our prayer; the Son, who is the **course** of our prayer; and the Spirit, who is the **force** behind it all.

There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

Adapted from “The Trinity and Prayer.” **The Prayer Code** by O.S. Hawkins

Holiday Grief



Grieving?
Know someone who is?

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to find hope for the future

**SURVIVING
THE
HOLIDAYS**

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.

GRIEF SHARE®
www.griefshare.org/holidays

Wednesday, Dec. 4th 6:00-8:30 PM
OR
Wednesday, Dec. 11th 12-2:30 PM
In the Fireside Room at Trinity Friends Church
605 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert, OH 45891
Call 419-238-2788 to pre-register

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 \$108,010.75
Received to Date \$113,864.75

Salem Scenes



2024-11-02 Women's Conference at Mt. Tabor Church in Celina.

Welsh Recipes

Cinnamon Cake – Teisen Sinamon

Dark in colour and almost gingery in flavour, this is one of the most traditional of Welsh cakes.

8 oz. self raising flour	4 oz. caster sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	3 eggs, separated
Pinch of salt	A little milk to moisten
4 oz. butter	1 tbs golden caster sugar
	Raspberry or strawberry jam

Set oven to 350 F. Grease a shallow 8-inch baking tin. Sieve the flour, cinnamon, and pinch of salt together in a bowl. Rub in the butter. Add the caster sugar and the beaten egg yolks to the flour mixture and mix well to a fairly stiff consistency. Add sufficient milk to moisten slightly. Turn the mixture into the tin and bake for 25 minutes until baked. Turn out and cool on a wire rack. Reduce oven temperature to 325 F. For the topping, whip the egg whites until stiff and fold in the golden caster sugar. Spread jam over the top of the cake and then pile on the meringue mixture. Return to the oven and cook for about 20 minutes until the meringue is set and pale golden brown. The dessert is best eaten immediately.

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



2024-10-05 Salem Church Election Day Supper





2024-11-10 Veterans Day ceremony exhibit.



2024-11-24 Younger and older Bells



2024-11-10 Patriotic poem readings by sisters Kinsey and Deanna Dearing.



2024-11-26 Pastor Harry Tolhurst in Salvation Army Uniform before speaking to the Lions Club evening meeting.



2024-11-24 The Breese, Lloyd, and Morris families And others decorate Salem for Christmas.

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

Dillon Ellerbrock

(Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

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

Madison Pugh-USCGA

64 Main St
Floor 3
Stonington, CT 06378

Corbin Evans (Marines)

Grandson of Bill & Ruth
Evans

Away at College

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

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

No Condolences to report this month

Birthdays

1 Wrenley Breese
8 Paige Thatcher (McClure)
9 Jason Lloyd
10 Danielle Lloyd
13 Marilyn Stockton
17 Jon Finn
17 Jeremy Morris
23 Samantha Morris
23 Jeff Owens
30 Isaiah Pugh
30 Mike Breese

Anniversaries

16 Kent & Heather McClure
28 Doug & Marilyn Stickler

Prayer Concerns

Donna Allenbaugh (shoulder surgery)
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)
Bev Place
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul Price
Denise Pugh (broken leg & other injuries)
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards
Evelyn Schwartz
Marilyn Stockton
The area Nursing Homes and their residents



December 2024



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship. Advent breakfast following the Service. Haven of Hope 7 PM Salem Van Wert visit time of homeless men needing prayer.	2	3 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	4 Noon-Senior Luncheon	5 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Brumback Public Library basement.	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting 4:00 PM Caroling 5:00 PM Trustee meeting 6:00 PM Manse Open House	9	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	11	12 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Brumback Public Library basement.	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship Christmas program will be held during worship service	16	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Living Truth Church in VW. 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	18	19 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Brumback Public Library basement.	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship Christmas Joy Offering	23	24 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion	25	26 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Brumback Public Library basement.	27	28
29 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe	30	31 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
Dec 1	Jason & Danielle Lloyd	Dave & Carla Breese	Connie O'Neill
Dec 8	Dave & Carla Breese	Dave & Carla Breese	Becky Reichard
Dec 15	Kevin & Kristen Price	Dave & Carla Breese	Jake Wilder
Dec 22	Merry Christmas Nursery not staffed	Gloria Leiter	Connie O'Neill
Dec 29	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Gloria Leiter	Lexi Greer
		Greeter:	Marilyn Foust

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



2024-11-24 Christmas decorations.

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



Dec 2024 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
1st Sunday of Advent – Dec 1	
Jer. 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10
Thes. 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
2nd Sunday of Advent – Dec 8	
Mal. 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79
Phil. 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 15	
Zeph. 3:14-20	Isa. 12:2-6
Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
4th Sunday of Advent – Dec 22	
Micah 5:2-5A	Psalm 80:1-7
Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
1st Sunday of Christmas – Dec 29	
1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148
Col. 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

