

Sunday: **2025-01-12 Baptism of the Lord**
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris*)
 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

Tuesday: **2025-01-14**
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets
 7:00 PM The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs

Thursday: **2025-01-16**
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Living Truth Church at 1180 S Washington St., Van Wert.

Sunday: **2025-01-19 2nd Sunday After Epiphany**
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese*)
 10:45 AM Installation of Officers
 Session Meeting

Announcements:

There is a **Sunday School sign-up sheet** at the back of the church. We are asking people to sign up for a month to help with lessons during the church service time.

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the January collection is Hamburger Helper.

The **2025 Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

We will not be using the large white envelopes for church giving in 2025. Please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

Installation & Ordination of officers will take place on January 19. Auditors to get **end of year reports** to Liz Hobbs on January 15. The reports will be available to the congregation on January 19.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February Newsletter**. Submit them to: PastorTomEmery@live.com.

Upcoming Birthdays

12 th Christina Youngpeter	12 th Quinn Young	16 th Rob Breese
16 th Liz Hobbs	19 th Wrettic Breese	



The Prophet Isaiah

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | January 12, 2025

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

Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Dave Burnett (heart issues)
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Kim Coil (foot surgery)
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Bob & Jane Harter
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Tim Morris
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad
Bev Place (cancer)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul Price
Denise Pugh
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards
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
“We Are Called and Claimed” Isaiah 43:1-7
Salem Presbyterian Church
January 12, 2025

In this passage, Isaiah reuses all the old memories, stories, and metaphors of Israel’s tradition for this new situation. The formulas are those of exodus, deliverance, and covenant: "You are mine,;" "I, Yahweh, am your God,;" "I am with you," and "I have redeemed you." The picture drawn is that of a new departure—once again leaving captivity, surviving the dangers of water and fire to reach home.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – The Lord has named and claimed us as His adopted children.

POINT TWO – Baptism is a beautiful, tender picture of what election is all about.

POINT THREE – We must learn to draw comfort and strength from our baptism.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1 NLT).

ACTION POINT

The exodus journey of Israel is a paradigm of the Christian's physical and spiritual baptismal journey. It begins in exile, in bondage to sin, in helplessness. Like the Israelites, we live in a foreign land under the rule of foreign powers. Like some Israelites, we have made our home in “Babylon,” opened a shop, hung out a shingle, and become a part of the empire. We are deserving of God's wrath. We have become enemies of God. We need to look honestly at our situation. We need to acknowledge our sinfulness. We need to follow Christ's call upon us.

Our whole life, then, is a renewal of our baptism. It is also growing into our baptism. It is becoming what we already are by baptism — our journey out of exile and into the Promised Land. It challenges the principalities, speaking truth to power and living by God's resources alone. It is the way to life and freedom, but it is scary. If we remember our baptism, however, we will have the assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

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