

Sunday: 2025-02-02 4th Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Toby & Elizabeth Adkin*)
Souper Bowl of Caring (bring a canned good)

Tuesday: 2025-02-04
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: 2025-02-06
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at the Trinity Friends Church at 1017 S Shannon Street.

Sunday: 2025-02-02 4th Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Tyler & Morgan McConnell*)
5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

Announcements:

The **St. David's Day celebration** will be held on Sunday March 2, 2025 at 9:30 am. We have secured a speaker (Dan Rowbotham) from Wales to join us. Dan works at Rio Grande Community college as the director of Welsh Studies. Plan to join us for Welsh hymns, bell music and some Welsh history. Lunch will be served following our morning service.

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the February collection food is canned meat.

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

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

Upcoming Birthdays

2nd Lindsay Breese
4th Andrew Emery

2nd Jerry Holscher
12th Madison Pugh

3rd Elizabeth Holscher
13th Audrey McCollow

BEFORE I FORMED
YOU IN THE WOMB
I knew you.
BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
I set you apart.
JEREMIAH 1:5

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | February 2, 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 (leukemia)
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
“Who Does God Say We Are?” Jeremiah 1:1-10
Salem Presbyterian Church
February 2, 2025

Jeremiah, whose name probably means “the Lord is exalted,” is from a priestly line. Jeremiah is in his middle or late teens when God talks with him. The dialogue points to an intimacy between the Lord and Jeremiah. God gives Jeremiah the confidence he needs to begin his ministry among the people. He reaches with his hand and touches Jeremiah’s mouth for the accomplishment of His purpose. The prophet lives through Josiah’s reform, Nebuchadnezzar’s siege of Jerusalem in 597 BC, the vacillating Zedekiah’s reign, and Jerusalem’s capture and burning in 587 BC.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – God commissions us.

POINT TWO – We have deadly words of doubt to discard – “Who am I that...?”

POINT THREE – You are never alone, and God is ever with you.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

⁵ “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5 NLT).

ACTION POINT

God urges Jeremiah to act and promises to be with him regardless of age. In Jeremiah’s weakness, God will make him strong. In God’s way of thinking, it is not one’s inherent strength, abilities, or credentials that count, but God’s presence. For that reason, Jeremiah is not afraid to go to the people with God’s message. Indeed, in the light of the divine command (“you must go” v. 7), he should only be afraid of not acting. God not only insists, “Get yourself ready,” God also informs Jeremiah that He has readied Jeremiah for the task in the womb. Likewise, God has prepared us for our tasks. Why not ask God prayerfully what He wants you to do with your life?

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