

**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2025, 7th Sunday after Epiphany**

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Pianist: Dave VanTilburg

Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Mark & Missy Zielke



Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 500

\*Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past 10

Prayer of Confession: **Loving God, Like Joseph, we don't always understand why things happen the way they do; why our plans and dreams fail, and we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment.** Yet, like Joseph, we also believe that You are at work in our lives, **and that You have a larger plan and purpose for each one of us.** Give us faith to trust in You no matter what challenges we face. **Give us courage to place our dreams and ambitions in Your hands,** and then follow where You lead without hesitation, **confident that Your loving presence goes with us. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).*

Assurance of Pardon Response

**Glory Be to the Father**

Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

**The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Readings \*Genesis 45:3-11, 15 41  
 Luke 6:27-38 939  
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 1049

Time for Children

\*Hymn: **Mae D'eisiau Di Bob Awr** *Welsh Hymnal, 62*

Sermon **"Providence and Forgiveness"** Rev. Thomas Emery

**\*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory & Prayer

\*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

\*Hymn: **God Will Take Care of You** 297

\*Taking the Light into the World

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

*\*Those who can are invited to stand.*



**Financial Update:**

Needed Weekly:	\$2,345.90	Needed to Date:	\$16,421.28
Rec'd 2025-02-16:	\$474.25	Rec'd to Date:	\$19,902.75

**Sunday:** 2025-02-23 7th Sunday After Epiphany  
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Bob & Denise Pugh*)  
 5:00 PM Session Meeting

**Tuesday:** 2025-02-25  
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at Global Methodist Church  
 at Crawford and Walnut Streets.  
 7:00 PM The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs.

**Thursday:** 2025-02-27  
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Trinity  
 Friends Church.

**Sunday:** 2025-03-02 Transfiguration of the Lord  
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Jeff & Kelly Lloyd*)  
 11:00 AM Lunch

The **St. David's Day Celebration** will be held on **Sunday, March 2**, 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 Welsh history. **Communion** will be distributed, and **lunch** will be served following our morning service.

**Announcements:**

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](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

**Upcoming Birthdays**

24 <sup>th</sup> Tim Price	25 <sup>th</sup> Bill McGee	27 <sup>th</sup> Kevin Fair
1 <sup>st</sup> Maeleigh Evans	2 <sup>nd</sup> Marylin Strickler	



**Joseph and His Brothers**

*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | February 23, 2025

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142  
[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto: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 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)  
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  
**“Providence and Forgiveness” Genesis 45:1-11, 15**  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
February 23, 2025

The Middle East has faced famine for two years. That means it has been a total of twenty-two years since Joseph has seen his father. Unable to hide his identity any longer, Joseph weeps aloud and identifies himself to his brothers: “I am Joseph!” So astonished are they that they cannot respond (v. 45:3). Doubtless, they now expect the worst. To their astonishment, Joseph is above vindictiveness as an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth is not where his heart was.

### TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *Forgiveness is a choice and act of free will.*

POINT TWO – *Man proposes, but God disposes.*

POINT THREE – *Like Joseph, we can have confidence in the goodness of God.*

### THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

<sup>5</sup>*But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. (Genesis 45:5 NLT).*

### ACTION POINT

Instead, Joseph shares a rich understanding of what has happened to him with his brothers. Joseph affirms that God sent him providentially to save Hebrew and Egyptian lives. Not only are Jacob’s relatives spared because of Joseph, but so are the Egyptians. Joseph has the perspective that it was not the brothers who sold him but God who “sent” him. But Joseph unlikely saw it in precisely that light twenty-two years earlier. He makes it a bit more specific in verse 7 when he says, “God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant.” It now becomes clear that Joseph is the supernatural means for the salvation of his family. From this account, know that our God is all-powerful and can use the bad in our lives to make good. Why not fully trust in God’s goodness?

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