

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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May 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Consider a modern parable about two babies talking in the womb about "life after delivery". Their conversation perfectly sums up our Christian faith and our walk with God. It's not always easy to trust in what we can't see, but it's a choice we all need to make by faith.

The parable is as follows: In a mother's womb were two babies. The first baby asked the other, "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The Second baby replied, "Why of course. There must be something after delivery. Maybe we are to prepare ourselves for what we are to be later."

"Nonsense", said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What would that life be?"

"I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat with our mouths."

The doubting baby laughed. "This is absurd". Walking is impossible. And, eat with our mouths? Ridiculous. The umbilical cord supplies us nutrition. Life after delivery is to be excluded. The umbilical cord is too short." The second baby held his ground. "I think there is something and maybe it is different than it is here."

The first baby replied, "No one has ever returned from there. Delivery is the end of life, and after delivery, it is nothing but darkness and anxiety, and it takes us nowhere." "Well, I don't know," said the twin, "but certainly we will see Mother, and she will take care of us."

"Mother?" the first baby guffawed. You believe in Mother? Where is she now? The second baby calmly tried to explain, "She is all around us. It is in her that we live. Without her, there would not be this world."

"Ha. I don't see her, so it's only logical that she doesn't exist." To which the other replied, "Sometimes when you're in silence you can hear her, you can perceive her. I believe there is a reality after delivery, and we are here to prepare ourselves for that reality when it comes..."



Henri J. W. Nouwen told the original story. However, several "mini-versions" have been adapted from Pablo Molinero's writings.

The second baby's understanding of "Mother" is a beautiful analogy

meant to parallel our faith in God. We are not much different from the two babies in our understanding of the world.

Faith is a tricky thing. It's having complete confidence in what we cannot see. But how can we possibly believe in something we can't see? After all, if we can't see something, how do we know it's there?

That's where faith in God comes in. God's Word says in Romans 10:9-10: "*If you acknowledge with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you are made right with God.*" That means that you will have eternal life with God! It also means that you can walk and talk with our loving God who created us and who guides His children through our lives until He receives us into heaven. Why not give your heart to God through making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?

Pastor Tom Emery

Draw Me Close to You

Draw me close to You
Never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I'm Your friend

You are my desire
No one else will do
'Cause nothing else can take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace

Help me find the way, bring me back to You

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want
Help me know You are near

Ladies (Draw me close to You)
(Never let me go)
(I lay it all down again)
(To hear You say that I'm Your friend)

Men, (You are my desire)
(No one else will do)
(Cause nothing else can take Your place)
(To feel the warmth of Your embrace)

Everyone, help me find the way, bring me back to You

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want
Help me know You are near

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want

Help me know You are near
Help me know You are near
Help me know You are near [YouTube Link](#)

Mother's Day Thoughts

The Scriptures are full of stories spotlighting the vital role of motherhood in God's mission. Though the American holiday of Mother's Day is only about 100 years old, various cultures have set aside time to pay homage to mothers. For Christians, this celebration involves honoring motherhood through the lens of God's revelation at the heart of our faith.

Our scriptural narrative discloses the inclusion of mothers in God's divine purposes from creation to new creation. God's original plan is that humans would fill the earth and steward it (Gen. 1:28). That project is unsustainable without mothers who give birth to the humans who will cultivate God's good creation. Even after the first created woman (and man) tarnishes the goodness, beauty, and simplicity of that plan with disobedience, God never gives up on her or the plan.

It is after their transgression and the entrance of pain, division, and even death that Adam sees evidence of God's grace in his partner—who is fittingly named Eve

(3:20). because she will be mother of the living (*Eve* and *living* are closely related in Hebrew). Death will not have the final word, and the hope of God's plan will



continue *through her* because she will bring forth life. The narrator allows her to proclaim God's grace in the birth of her children (4:1, 25).

Mothers recede into the background as most of the genealogies focus on fathers and sons—but without mothers, of course, these family lines would not continue at all. Over and over again, God invites the participation of women in the divine plan of life. But it is Eve who, as mother of all living human beings, provides the template for every mother who followed. God orchestrated the divine design of biological life such that women are necessary to the continuation of the human race. Mothers give of their bodies, their energy, their time, and their love so that new humans can live and flourish.

God could have chosen to redeem the world in any way aligned with his divine character but chose Incarnation. He chose to invite Mary, a poor young Jewish woman, to participate in that process. The triune God of heaven chose Mary of Nazareth to be the mother of Jesus, the eternal and only begotten Son. From her body, God took on flesh. From her milk, God received sustenance. Under her instruction, God the Son grew in wisdom and favor with his Father and fellow man (Luke 2:52).

Adapted from "God Chose Moms to Carry Out His Plans" by Amy Peeler, Christianity Today, May 6, 2022.

Memorial Day Understanding

A Pastor said that his US Marine Corps regiment had a saying: "Suffer in silence." He also served with men who had the phrase tattooed into their skin. It was a useful statement in battle, where soldiers stake their lives on each other's strength and perseverance. But suffering in silence once they return home can be disastrous.

"If you take that idea with you when you leave the military... It's not too long to plot out a time where that person's going to take their life," he said. The veteran suicide rate is about twice that of the non-veteran US adult population. But, on the other hand, asking about their experience in the service could seem invasive or accusatory; yet, not asking could seem neglectful or ungrateful.



Digging deeper, researchers of veteran suicides found that it...“is not primarily a problem born out of exposure to combat and PTSD but out of a broken relationship between people and God.”

“The military is such an honor/shame culture,” returned Marine, Josh Holler says, but with inverted virtues—many habits that are “shamed” back home are “honored” on deployment, such as excessive drinking and porn use. He found that men he knew who’d died by suicide after deployment had often struggled to kick one or more of those habits upon returning home, thereby alienating friends and family, sinking deeper into isolation, and losing a broader sense of purpose.

But there’s an even deeper kind of moral injury. Along with the entreaty to “suffer in silence,” Holler says his fellow Marines were taught another saying: “Have a plan to kill everyone you meet.” “It was drilled into you,” Holler said. “If you have considered killing another person as part of your job ... I firmly believe that lowers the threshold to then translate to killing yourself,” he said.

Nevertheless, researchers agree the worst way to minister to veterans—even those struggling with clinical PTSD, who may need more intervention besides friendship and community—is to ignore them. Let us pray for our veterans often and sensitively be available for them.

Adapted from: “Vets in Ministry Won’t Retreat from the Military’s Suicide Crisis” by Maria Baer, Christianity Today, November 11, 2024.

Welsh Cakes © Wales Guidebook

What is a Welsh cake? Baked with love since the 19th century, these traditional Welsh Cakes or Bakestones were a favourite of miners and children alike for packed lunches down the mines or afternoon tea. Featuring many ingredients as a scone but cooked almost like a pancake, the light texture is unique to these traditional Welsh treasures. Serving them with a jam or jelly makes them more delicious.

A traditional Welsh Cake recipe with currants and mixed spice.

Ingredients

- 225g plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 pinch of salt
- 100g of butter

- Half a teaspoon of mixed spice – We used ginger and cinnamon, but you can use any mixed spice straight from the store.
- 50g of caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 50g of currants
- 1 egg, beaten with 3 tbsp milk

Directions

- Add your weighed out flour, caster sugar, salt, mixed spice and baking powder in a mixing bowl and stir well.
- Cut your lard and butter into 2cm cubes and add to dry ingredients. With COLD hands rub the mixture together until a fine bread crumb is achieved.
- Add your currants and mix thoroughly.
- Stir in the whisked egg and milk to your ingredients and mix until you have a stiff dough.

TIP: Slightly heat the milk in the microwave for a few seconds before you add it to the mixture to keep them from drying out.

- Roll the dough with your rolling pin on a lightly floured board until around 5mm thick and cut out 16 rounds with a pastry or biscuit cutter.
- Lightly grease your griddle or iron frying pan with lard ideally but you can use butter. Make sure the pan is hot and over medium heat cook the cakes for about 3 to 4 minutes on each side until they are golden brown and have risen slightly,



Carefully take your hotcakes from the griddle, place them on a plate and sprinkle generously with caster sugar. There you have your finished traditional Welsh Cakes. Simple and easy to serve to guests or as a treat for you and the family.

Venedocia News Summary for April and May



This year, Salem honored the Lent season activities. We were blessed to have fine worship organ and piano talent. Easter came late on the calendar. The three bell choir teams practiced often. “Sandy” went deeper with the

Time for Children; the church is growing in higher numbers of children and the Sunday School has divided more age groups. The Women’s Bible Study continues through the Bible. The Van Wert County Prayer Association held a Good Friday service at the Van Wert 1st Presbyterian Church with all the area churches and pastors participating. Pastor Tom delivered the Homily.

The Senior Luncheon and Bingo met and renewed friendships.

Members continue to participate in area organizations such as LifeWise school support, the Van Wert Men's Homeless shelter, the Salvation Army Food Bank, the VW County Fairgrounds, and many other ministries supported by Salem.

The Session and the Trustees met to envision the future of Salem Church. We are participating in the National Day of Prayer at the Courthouse steps. During the month of May, the Van Wert County Prayer Association will be hosted at Salem Church on Thursdays at noon in the Salem Prayer room before rotating to another area church (everyone is invited). Our finances are steady considering the upcoming unpredictable economic climate.



2025-04-13 Palm Sunday children carrying the Palm branches

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 \$39,880.24
Received to Date \$44,970.36

Sights of Salem



2025-04-13 Palm Sunday Bells



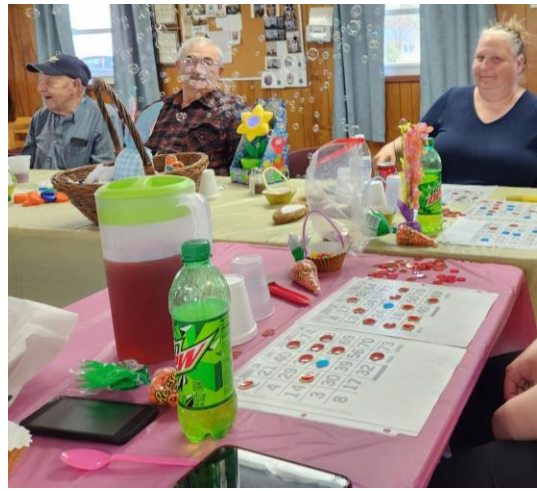
2025-04-16 Salem Women's Group at the women's Last Supper Experience at the Wapakoneta Church.



2025-04-20 Easter Sunday Sunrise breakfast



2025-04-20 Easter Sunday Sunrise Breakfast



2025-04-23 Senior Luncheon and Bingo at the Lions Club



Ashlyn Price Easter Sunday Christ Candle lighting before Service and Communion



2025-04-23 Senior Luncheon and Bingo servers



2025-04-20 Easter Sunday after the "Flowering of the Cross Ceremony"



Graduation Party Invitation

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

"Young at Heart"

Ann Rees

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ellen Freisner

Delphos Van Crest
1425 E. 5th St
Delphos, OH 45833

Marjorie Eutsler

Room 302
Homestead at Town Ctr
240 Towne Center Blvd
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

Madison Pugh

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 the University of Toledo)
2632 Greenway Street
Toledo, OH 43607

Condolences to the family of **Charles Boroff**

Birthdays

2 Audrey Hobbs	3 Kim Coil
3 Eric Pugh	4 Rod Eutsler
4 Heather Matthews	6 Emma Jones
7 Josh Lloyd	8 Bob Pugh
10 Rex Lloyd	12 Sandy Clayborn
15 Dane Ebel	16 Chance Mosier
17 Mary Jane Haines	17 Delayna Profit
17 Katey Lloyd	19 Holden Price
22 Dawson Kimmet	23 Carolyn Girod
25 Taylor Hoehn	29 Wrigsby Breese
31 Vincent Richards	

Anniversaries

15 Steve & Lindsay Richards
19 Bart & Rosemary Strick
20 Mark & Missy Zielke

Prayer Concerns

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder surgery)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Tom Burnett (tractor accident)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Alana Francis
Ellen Friesner
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)

Carla Hillabrand (Medical issues)
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (recovering leg surgery)
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor's daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer)
Bev Place
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (Leukemia)
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

May 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon – National Day of Prayer at V.W. Courthouse	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship	5	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study.	7	8 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at Salem Church.	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship, Recognize Mother's Day 5:00 PM Trustee meeting	12	13 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study.	14	15 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at Salem Church.	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship Baptisms 10:45 AM Session Meeting	19	20 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study. 3PM-7:30 PM Presbytery mtg at 1 st Presb. Ch in V.W 7:00 PM Women's Bible study.	21	22 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at Salem Church.	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship Veteran's Recognition	26 Memorial Day - 10:30 Horeb Cemetery & 11:00 AM Memorial Park observations	27 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study.	28 Sr. Luncheon at noon	29 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at Salem Church.	30	31

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
May 4	Todd & Joyne Morris	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Jake Wilder
May 11	Michael & Lindsay Breese	Marylin Foust	Tonia Dunifon
May 18	Mark & Missy Zielke	Marylin Foust	Jake Wilder
May 25	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Marylin Foust	Becky Reichard
		Greeter:	Missy Zielke

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



2025-04-20 Easter Sunday
Undecorated Cross

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Salemchurch.cc@gmail.com

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

**May 2025
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR C**

3rd Sunday of Easter – May 4

Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 30
Rev. 5:11-14	John 21:1-19

4th Sunday of Easter – May 11

Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23
Rev. 7:9-17	John 10:22-3

5th Sunday of Easter – May 18

Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148
Rev. 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

6th Sunday of Easter – May 25

Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67
Rev. 21:10,22-22:5	John 14:23-29