Salem Presbyterian Church

17th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 31, 2025

Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Connie O'Neill

Prelude
Lighting of the Candles
Welcome & Prayer

*<u>Hymn</u> Groeswen Welsh hymnal, 42

Call to Worship Psalm 81:1,10-16 530

<u>Prayer of Confession</u>: Dear God, we have known You since the time You led our ancestors from bondage to freedom. We have found no fault in Your promise. Yet we wander from the path that You have set and put our faith in other "gods" which lead us away from justice, compassion, and hospitality. We forsake Your blessing. Forgive our faithlessness and our arrogance. Restore us to the right relationship with You and all those in our midst. We pray this together in Jesus' Name. Amen. (Please take a moment of silent confession).

Assurance of Pardon

Response Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u> The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings *Jeremiah 2:4-13 685

Luke 14:1,7-14 951 Hebrews 13:1-8.15-16 1098 Special Music Jake Wilder

Time for Children

*<u>Hymn</u> I Sing as a Bird (Rwy'n Canu) Welsh hymnal, 65

Sermon Cracked Cisterns 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.

*Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

*Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

*<u>Hymn</u> Sanctus Welsh hymnal, 30

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen

Inside Back Cover

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Financial Update:

Needed Weekly:	\$2,345.90	Needed to Date:	\$79,760.48
Rec'd 08-24-2025-: \$1,754.50		Rec'd to Date:	\$79,078.86

Sunday: <u>08-31-2025</u> 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM Worship with Pastor Tom Emery

(Nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese)

6:30 PM Gymanfa Ganu

Tuesday: <u>09-02-2025</u>

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets in the Global Methodist Church at

Crawford and Walnut Streets.

Thursday: <u>09-04-2025</u>

Noon The Van Wert County Prayer meeting is at the Church on the

Horizon, 551 Center Street

Sunday: 09-07-2025 13th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship (Nursery with Mark & Missy Zielke)

Announcements:

Please join us for our annual **Gymanfa Ganu** tonight at 6:30 pm. Please note the Gymanfa Ganu will start 30 minutes earlier than normal. There will not be a meal served prior to the Gymanfa. We hope to see you there!

The 2024 Drive Your Tractor to Church / Blessing of the Harvest is on September 14, and there will be a potluck lunch afterward.

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the food we collect for September is canned vegetables.

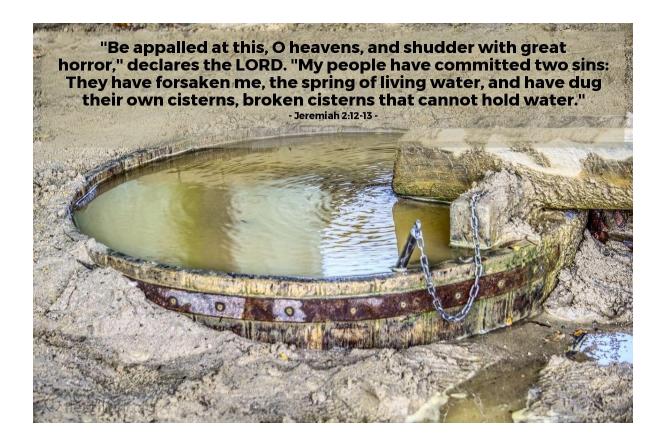
Please take photos and contribute updates, recipes, and ideas for the next **Salem newsletter,** "**Sounds of Salem**." Submit them to PastorTomEmery@live.com

Upcoming Birthdays

1st Elizabeth Adkins1st Katie Young1st Kim Ebel3rd Pete McCollow4th Claudia LeValley4th Katie McClure

Upcoming Anniversaries

11th Jeremy & Samantha Morris 15th Bob & Denise Pugh



Jeremiah 2:13

Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, 074 45894 419-667-4142 Office August 31, 2025

Prayer Concerns:

Allen Breece

Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)

Bill Culver

Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)

Millie Fletcher

Ellen Friesner

Shana Fryer

Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

Charlie Good (prostate cancer)

Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese

Elizabeth Holscher

Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor)

Pete McCollow

Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)

David Morris (Zeb)

Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad

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)

Condolences to the family of Marjorie Eutsler

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Rev. Thomas Emery "Cracked Cisterns" Jeremiah 2:4-13 Salem Presbyterian Church August 31, 2025

Incredibly, the people loved by God, called by God, and blessed by God would pursue their desires and interests instead of the way God had directed them. It is astounding that those made in God's image would wrap themselves in images of their own making. It is also incomprehensible that those created to glorify and enjoy God would instead glorify and gratify themselves. Turning from the living water of God, the sure, reliable, abundant source of life, they have instead tried to build cisterns for themselves, but cisterns that couldn't hold water.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *Cracks occur in belief over time.* You must continue discipleship: by reading the Word, doing the work, and changing the world.

POINT TWO – *Israel had the wrong priorities*. Stewardship is an indication of what priorities are important.

POINT THREE – *Israel forgot its ideals*. You must continually have the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to guide you.

THIS WEEK'S VERSE

For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all (*Jeremiah 2:13 NLT*)!

ACTION POINT

Consider the image Jesus had in mind when telling the story in the Book of John, where it is said that He was at Jacob's well with the Samaritan woman. Jesus said to the woman: "Everyone who drinks of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14). When the woman asked for some of this living water, this water for living, Jesus didn't just give her a cup and say: "Here, have some." Instead, he told the woman about her life. He asked her to look at her life and how she was living it. "To look at the cracks in her life" meant her life didn't hold water. That's what Jeremiah was asking the people of Israel to do. To look at their lives (not their pottery). We all need to examine what holds water, what makes sense, and what doesn't, to draw closer to God's ways.

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