

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 31, 2025

Organist: Connie O'Neill



Scripture Readings	*Jeremiah 2:4-13	685
	Luke 14:1,7-14	951
	Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16	1098

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: 08-31-2025 12th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship with Pastor Tom Emery
(Nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese)
6:30 PM Gymanfa Ganu

Tuesday: 09-02-2025
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets in the Global Methodist Church at
Crawford and Walnut Streets.

Thursday: 09-04-2025
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

1 st Elizabeth Adkins	1 st Katie Young	1 st Kim Ebel
3 rd Pete McCollow	4 th Claudia LeValley	4 th Katie McClure

Upcoming Anniversaries

11 th Jeremy & Samantha Morris	15 th Bob & Denise Pugh
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Jeremiah 2:13

Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 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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