

# Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Becky Reichard & Arlene Amstutz  
The flowers are given in honor of God by Jeremy & Samantha Morris



Prelude  
Lighting the Candles  
Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 22:25-31 491

\*Hymn: It Is Well with My Soul 256

Prayer of Confession: Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at Your power and glory. **We are eager to worship You and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear You calling our name.** We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. **Forgive us when we forget Your promise to be with us always, O God.** Renew us with the power of Your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim Your justice throughout the world. **We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal 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**

Special Music Becky Reichard & Arlene Amstutz

Scripture Readings John 15:1-8 983  
\*Acts 8:26-40 1000  
1 John 4:7-21 1112

Time for Children

\*Hymn: Trust and Obey 261

Sermon: "Following the Spirit of God" 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.**

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

\*Hymn: Deemster *Welsh Hymnal, 29*

\*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: \$2,298.10 Needed to Date: \$36,769.62  
Rec'd 2024-04-21: \$1,839.00 Rec'd to Date: \$43,017.50

**Sunday:** 2024-04-28  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Dave & Carla Breese)

**Tuesday:** 2024-04-30  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the Orchard Tree  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

**Thursday:** 2024-05-02  
Noon National Day of Prayer is the Van Wert County Courthouse. Come and pray for our nation!

**Sunday:** 2024-05-05  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Kevin & Kristen Price)

### Announcements:

On Tuesdays, the **Men's Bible Study** meets at the Orchard Tree Restaurant in Van Wert at 7:00 AM, and the **Women's Bible Study** meets at 7 PM downstairs at Salem.

The next **Session Meeting** is at 10:45 on May 5<sup>th</sup>. **Mother's Day** is May 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be recognizing Mothers. In May, we will be recognizing **Salem Graduates**; please let us know of any graduates.

For the **May Sounds of Salem Newsletters**, please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc).

### Upcoming Birthdays

29 <sup>th</sup> Jenny Pugh	30 <sup>th</sup> Ruth Evans	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> Audrey Hobbs
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kim Coil	3 <sup>rd</sup> Eric Pugh	4 <sup>th</sup> Rod Eutsler
4 <sup>th</sup> Heather Matthews	6 <sup>th</sup> Emma Jones	7 <sup>th</sup> Josh Lloyd



**Acts 8:26-40**

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*Salem Presbyterian Church*

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Venedocia, Ohio | May 28, 2024

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:**

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)  
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Jason Boyd (terminal cancer)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Tim (Alfie) Burnett (recovering from a car accident)  
Kim Coil (foot surgery)  
Pastor Tom Emery (long Covid healing)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Ellen Friesner  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Greg Glander  
Jane Harter  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Larry Miller (cancer)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Tori and Roger Wells (surgeries)  
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  
"Following the Spirit of God" Acts 8:26-40  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
April 28, 2024

Early in the Book of Acts, Luke recites the activities and exploits of the early Apostles: Peter, John, and Philip. They went from town to town declaring the message of a "Risen Lord" and ministering to the sick, the disabled, and those suffering from mental or spiritual miseries. No story excites the Christian mind to the degree that the miracle of the Resurrection does; word of it quickly spread to the lands surrounding Jerusalem.

Of note is the exciting account of Philip's adventure into the desert territory on the way south to the City of Gaza. In the more populated centers of Samaria, crowds were attracted to him and, as Luke put it, "gave heed to what was said by him" (v. 8:6), and "there was much joy" (v. 8) as a result of his visits among them. Then, strangely enough, Philip felt an inner compulsion to strike out into unknown territory in the direction of Gaza, one of the most southern cities on the main trade route to Egypt. In our passage, we find him, a Jew, on a missionary venture into a Gentile country.

#### TEACHING POINTS

***First. The Holy Spirit will call you.***

***Second. The Holy Spirit will communicate God's truth through you.***

***Third. The Holy Spirit enables you to make a life-changing commitment to God.***

***Fourth. As the Holy Spirit transforms your life, He will draw us into the Christian community.***

#### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" (Acts 8:30-31b NLT).

#### ACTION POINT

Philip parted company with the Ethiopian, and we read that his new disciple "went on his way rejoicing" (v. 39) simply because he had found Christ. Moreover, the Ethiopian undoubtedly felt that on his return to his homeland, he would never be bewildered anymore. Now, his life had new meaning and purpose. Even amid heathen unbelief, he would know within himself a Godly Presence that calms and satisfies every human heart. Why not also seek that same peace that God offers to you?

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