

Wednesday:

6:30 PM

01-11-17

Confirmation Class

Sunday:

9:30 AM

6:00 PM

01-15-17 – INSTALLMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

Worship Service (*nursery: Gwenda Blackmore*)

Trustee Meeting

Announcements:

Beginning TODAY, a new one-hour Adult Sunday School class will begin based on the book, ***Dave Ramsey's Complete Guide to Money.***

The new **flower chart** for 2017 is up on the bulletin board. This year, flowers will be used for *three* weeks. Please consider signing up and remember to contact the secretary if you have a special request of who you might be giving them in honor of. Thank you!

Please pick up a box of **Offering Envelopes** in the side room for the New Year.

Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesday, January 11 & 25 at 6:30 pm.

We have extra **poinsettias** in the side room, please feel free to take them!

Mini-March for Life will be held on Friday, January 27. Walkers, meet at 11:00 am at Fountain Park (VW). A lunch will be served at the K of C at 11:30 am (donations to PLC) and the prayer service will follow at 12:00 pm. Call 419-238-9177 for more info. ***Please pray to end abortion.***

Annual Reports are due January 15. These reports will be made available to the congregation January 22 and the approval vote will be taken on Sunday, February 5.

Teen for Christ continues to meet each Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church in Spencerville. Youth are invited to take part in the Christ-centered Bible study, skits, games, food and fun. Please contact Pastor for a ride.

Dear Salem Church Family, Thank you for allowing me to serve this church for the past two and a half years as secretary. I am grateful for how Salem has provided for my family in this way. But, I regret to say, I must leave my position this month. Thank you for always being encouraging. I have been truly blessed.

Sincerely, Tamara Mullenhour



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | January 8, 2017

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

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**Rev. Thomas Emery | “The Unfinished Christmas Story” | Isaiah 35:1-10
Salem Presbyterian Church | January 8, 2016**

To the Jews returning from Babylon and Persia, Isaiah prophetically discusses Christ’s coming glorious kingdom. All creation will be affected, both for people and for nature in its entirety. Israel and Juda were laid waste as Yahweh’s judgment. Here Isaiah says that the despair will give way to the glory similar to Lebanon and the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. In the land, there will be rejoicing, gladness, blossoming, and shouts of delight. The people will see the glory of their God reflected in this renewal of nature. To the Jews, Isaiah assures them that their “salvation” includes a salvation from their enemies and restoration. In Christ’s Kingdom, there is no place for fear. Recovery comes to the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute (35:5–6). God would give His unmerited favor to those who were once under judgment. They will experience God’s glory, His presence, His protection, and leadership just like they were provided in the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – Christ Is Hope for the Hopeless.

POINT TWO – Jesus Renews Us.

POINT THREE – The Christmas Story Is Yet Unfinished.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness” (Isaiah 35:10 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Isaiah talks about an upside-down world. Those who are poor, hungry and oppressed now have a defender. He uses the image of a highway to characterize the two qualities: holiness and joy. Its use is limited to those who are holy and who are in right relationship with God. The people who walk in it are described as “the redeemed” (35:9–10) Isaiah is making the offer for those of us in a desert experience that we can find refreshment and renewal in Christ. The redemption of which Isaiah speaks will conclude in that day when Jesus comes to restore the present earth to himself. Take Christ’s offer of renewal. Pray for Jesus to fully come into your life, and ask His Holy Spirit to guide you and help you live Christ’s commands. Why remain in our personal self-imposed desert? Why not take the offer of renewal to heart and follow Christ!

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