

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 5

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Pastor's Thoughts

During one of my routine springtime walks around town when the family dog was walking me, I began to reflect on the good aspects of Venedocia and of Salem Church. Our town is really is a good place to live and Salem to worship.



I see neighbors mowing neighbor's and the Village lawns and picking up litter. I see the Venedocia Lion's trailer where Venedocia sausage is cooked up and sold at the fair, basketball games, and community events to earn money to give it all away for local community causes. I see what was once a swamp area that was cleared with hard work by a selfless family to make Memorial Park. I see the baseball field bathrooms redone by volunteers so a Little League softball team can practice.

I have heard countless stories of tools being loaned out, help given for a stuck car, a stalled tractor, the knocking on doors about a stray dog that needed a home. People ride each other to doctor's appointments. Certainly, anyone in the hospital or nursing home will get many visits. A new family will be welcomed. Cars are waved at passing by. School events are well attended. The Memorial Day Service and the Easter Egg Hunt has most of the town showing up.

I was used to Church Trustees being bean-counting accountants. At Salem, the

Trustees show up to do needed church projects with their own tools without pay. I joked about "boys with their toys" when two backhoes showed up. Salem Church didn't have Deacons like most churches; that's because everyone cooks meals, cleans up, welcomes others, and give of themselves. The Church Prayer list is active.

In essence, our small community is a loving place where people care and everyone is welcomed and greeted warmly. What a blessing Venedocia is.

Pastor Tom

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints



And calm all of our fears.
There are times
when only a
mother's love
Can share the joy
we feel
When something
we've dreamed

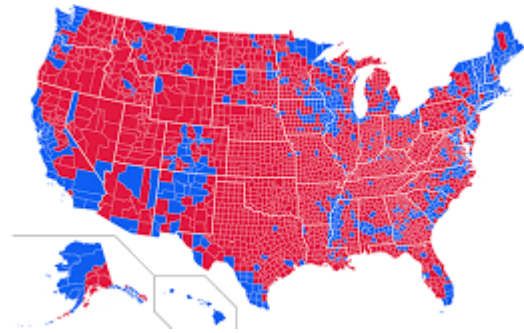
about
Quite suddenly is real.
There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.
For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above. --Author Unknown

Why A Divided America?

Among Millennials, 35 percent reject any religious affiliation versus 22 percent of the general population reject any religious affiliation.

Atlantic Magazine, April 2017 "Breaking Faith."

Many have been searching for reasons campuses are in uproar and America is so divided in unity after the election. Historian writer, David Lane, says no doubt it is because an anti-Biblical movement has had its way in America since before prayer was outlawed in American schools in 1962.



The Millennial age group has been educated eight hours a day for at least 12 years to deny that there is a Living God which we must be accountable. So, why should we be surprised?

After seeing the abuses in Europe, the Founders rejected France's Secular model as a false religion without God. Secularism focused solely on the mind, content, and intellect. The French Revolution led to an out-of-control reign of terror. The mobs had no conscience to their murders of anyone who disagreed. Since to their thinking, there was no God, no right or wrong, and everyone did what they thought was right in their own eyes.

Let's trace public education in America back to its headwater. The Founders studied the lessons of history. In the 17th century, instead of adopting the secular French Revolution model, our forefathers

adopted the Hebrew ideal of education, emphasizing character and virtue, and that God's loyalty and fidelity are what protects a nation.

The Founders believed that without a moral component, education is of little value. They understood that politics operates downstream from culture and that good government and morality are intrinsically connected. Have you ever wondered why our youth are so ignorant of the workings, the rationale and the divine purpose of the Constitution based on Biblical principles?

Spiritual wisdom belongs to a different category of value than Secular learning. Hence, the Founders placed value and priority on Biblical truths like "righteousness exalts a nation." They knew that virtue is an essential component of freedom, so they made compulsory the reading of Scripture and the practice of prayer in America's educational and civil institutions. From generation to generation, the Founders wanted to ensure sustainable freedom.

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land (1 Chronicles 7:14).

The Christian worldview of the Founders dominated early American education and the public square, and they laid the foundation of America on the bedrock of Jesus Christ.

The Founders knew that the false religion of Secularism in America is freedom's main long-term threat, as it thrives in the absence of a Biblically literate people. The resurrection of the teaching of "the whole

counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) in America is what will produce healthy citizens who reflect the goodness of Christ and a good united civic culture.

Loved to Humbly Serve

"Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father... He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet. John 13:1-5

Check out this list of excuses. Do any of them sound familiar?

"I'd like to, but I'm really busy at work right now."

"I'd like to, but I have other plans for that day/weekend/month/year."

"I'd like to, but I think someone else would do a better job."

"I'd like to, but I'm burned out from helping. I need a break for a while. I promised myself that I wouldn't take on any more obligations."

"I'd like to, but I need to spend more time with my family."

Excuses. Sadly, we've all used them. Sometimes we do truly need to say no. But other times, our excuses are less than genuine. Sometimes, they are rooted more deeply in selfishness than in reality.

Serving others sometimes seems to demand too much; too much time, too much energy, too much money. Serving others can also seem like too little: too little reward, too little recognition. Whether it's too much or too little, humble service simply doesn't always fit into our priorities.

Look again at the list of excuses. Do you notice any similarities? Every excuse

begins with the word "I". There is a connection between humility and service.

Someone once wrote, "True humility is not thinking less of yourself. It's thinking of yourself less." When we put ourselves first, serving is often relegated to last place.



FOLLOW *Jesus...*
SERVE OTHERS...

On the night before Jesus died, he knelt down to wash the feet of his disciples. If anyone could have offered up

legitimate reasons to avoid serving, it was our Lord Jesus on that particular night. No doubt, the thought of what he was to endure in the hours ahead was overwhelming. Then, too, he was the Son of God, God himself! No one could claim such menial service was rightly his.

But surprise! Jesus doesn't make excuses. He doesn't complain or try to guilt someone else into picking up the towel. He sees dirty feet and kneels down to help. That's service. Authentic, self-forgetful service.

Lord Jesus, you died for my sinful selfishness and pride. Forgive me, and work in me a truly humble heart—a heart that longs to serve others in your name.

Adapted from Gail Marsh, Living Loved

Transformed

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

Which invention during your lifetime has changed your life the most? Radio? TV?

Household appliances? Cell Phones? Debit cards? Laptop computers? GPS systems? Online shopping?

Inventions transform lives and have been doing so since the development of the wheel. Some may argue that many ideas originally intended to simplify life have made it even more complicated. Still, we have to agree that our lives are definitely affected, transformed even, by the inventions of the past few decades.

Our technological advances may be impressive, but God has been transforming lives in even more impressive ways since the dawn of time. God's love changes things!

Remember Matthew, the tax collector? It's likely that Matthew got as rich as he was by cheating others. Those who collected taxes for the Roman government did not receive a salary. Instead, they were allowed to add a fee on to the taxes they collected. These fees were never small. If anyone objected, the tax collector could call on local Roman legions to make a collection call.

Matthew probably had a few friends, but he had his money and his power. He was willing to settle for that. He was willing that is, until Jesus offered Matthew more, more than anyone else ever had or ever could have. Jesus offered Matthew God's unconditional love and acceptance.

Realizing it, Matthew jumped up from his tax table and walked away, leaving his former life behind. He traded in his tax collection job to follow Jesus, who at the time was a little-known, itinerant teacher.

Jesus' love changed Matthew. Forever. That's powerful, transformational love!

Or consider Saul of Tarsus. Intent on eliminating the cult of Christ-followers, Saul methodically persecuted the followers of this Jesus Christ, jailing some, killing others. Then, Jesus intervened, appearing to Saul in a vision on the road to Damascus.

Jesus intervened, offering forgiveness, acceptance, and yes, genuine, powerful love. That love transformed Saul as it had transformed Matthew before him. Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle.

The power of God's love, in Christ, is at work in your today. It's true! And here's God's promise to you:

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

Lord God, remind me how fiercely you love me.

Adapted from "Woman if God" By Gail Marsh

Easter Season and Events



Lima Converge Youth Group Event



Maundy Thursday Service and Meal Given by the Morris Family



Easter Sunrise Youth Service



Ash Wednesday Service



Palm Sunday



Venedocia Egg Hunt in Memorial Park

Prayer Concerns

- Norma Adam (several health issues)
- Violet Ashton (broken leg)
- Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)
- Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
- Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
- Doris Evans (cancer)
- Alice Gamble (in coma from a car accident)
- Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)
- Larry Howell
- Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
- Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)
- Simon Ibell (deadly birth condition)
- Sami Jones (shoulder surgery)
- Jeremy Hughes (recovering from MRSA)
- Betty Lloyd
- Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)
- Marian Morris (stage two cancer)
- Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
- Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
- Betty Lloyd
- Byron Mohr (recovering from bowel issues)
- Marion Morris (stage two cancer)
- Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
- Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
- Joyce Profit (heart issues)
- Chris Reichert (health issues)
- George Siler (physical therapy)
- Thad Summersett (brain tumor)
- Warren Summersett (cancer)
- Natalie Wilkens (90 years old and failing in health)
- Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)
- John Lloyd (hospitalized respiratory infection)
- Keith Stoller (surgical complications)

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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



Easter Service Flowering of the Cross

Violet Ashton

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St. - Apt. 109
Spencerville, OH 45887

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Betty Lloyd

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Road
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
311 Oak Street #109
Oakland, CA 94607

Pete McCollow

(U.S. Marine Corps)
116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Nick Fuller

Grandson of Dave &
Ann Rees

Micah Linger

(U.S. Marine Corps)
Grandson of Doris
Evans

Phoebe Eutsler

(U.S. Army)



Palm Sunday Confirmation Class Installation

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Lourdes University

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Cassy Emery – Cincinnati Christian University
Box 564, 2700 Glenway Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Audrey (Hobbs) Menker | 3 Kim Coil |
| 3 Deb Fair | 3 Eric Pugh |
| 4 Rod Eutsler | 4 Heather Matthews |
| 6 Emma Jones | 7 Josh Lloyd |
| 8 Bob Pugh | 9 Linda Fisher Howell |
| 10 Rex Lloyd | 12 Sandy Clayborn |
| 14 Bob Louth | 15 Dane Ebel |
| 16 Chance Mosier | 17 Mary Jane Haines |
| 17 Delayna Profit | 17 Stacia Profit |
| 18 Ione Owens | 19 Holden Price |
| 22 Dawson Kimmert | 23 Carolyn Girod |
| 25 Taylor Hoehn | |



Anniversaries

- 13 Jerry & Marilyn Foust
19 Bart & Rosemary Strict
20 Mark & Melissa Zielke

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$34,812.00
Received to Date: \$37,083.41

May 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Natl Day of Prayer 6:30 V-Fit	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School Recognize Jr. Choir	8	9	10	11 6:30 V-Fit	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	15	16	17	18 6:30 V-Fit	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship (communion) 10:45 Sunday School Noon Session	22	23	24 Noon - Senior Luncheon	25 6:30 V-Fit	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship- recognize veterans 10:45 Sunday School	29 11:00 am- Memorial Day Service – at Memorial Park	30	31			

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
May 7	Liz Hobbs	Jr. Choir	Todd Morris family	Marilyn Foust	Gwenda Blackmore
May 14		Tamara Mullenhour			Mark & Missy Zielke
May 21		Communion Pen Park		Carol & Katie Emery	
May 28		Marie Winfield		Gwenda Blackmore	Ross & Alyssa Evans

Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894



Palm Sunday Family Photos

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

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www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc
Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com



*Photos from
Easter
Events*



May 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A	
4th Sunday after Easter – May 7	
Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23:1-6
I Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
5th Sunday after Easter – May 14	
Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
I Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
6th Sunday after Easter – May 21	
Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20
I Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
7th Sunday after Easter – May 28	
Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11