

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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The Pastor's Thoughts

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6 KJV).

As many of you know, I was not raised in a Christian home environment. But, I was blessed because my grandmother stepped into the role of training me about God. I knew that she loved God, so I also loved God. Her devoted modeling of godliness had a lifetime effect.

She would sit me on her knee and read scriptures and tell godly stories that built character. She had a quiet peacefulness. It displayed that she had an inner joy that all could see.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 14:23 NLT *"In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish."* Further, he tells us that there are eternal rewards for those who lead people to Christ.

It is our responsibility as a Salem church family to love our little ones whether in the church or in the neighborhood and to point them to Jesus. With our Sunday morning service, we have the *"Time for Children,"* and we talk about *"Jesus in our hearts"* each time. We also pray together with the children holding hands. This upcoming theme of Vacation Bible School is about just that. Why not help with the VBS as well as send your little ones for spiritual training. Why not volunteer?

Pastor Tom

2017 Vacation Bible School



This year's Vacation Bible School will be **Monday and Tuesday, August 7 and 8th, 9:30-11:30 am.**

The theme is *"Jesus In My Heart."* Stories, songs, and activities will be instructional for the children to understand what Jesus did when He died for us, and how to have an alive relationship with God.

We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles
Are so great,
We don't know what to do;
The price for our
Iniquity
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling
All about;
No safe place can be found.
Right is wrong,
Wrong is right;
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need
Your guiding light
To lead us out of here;
We'll focus on
Your Word, and prayer,
To take away our fear.

Temptations of
This dying world
We'll rule out and let go;
Give our burdens
All to you,
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll
Get through this, Lord,
Fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your
protection, help,
And everlasting love.

By Joanna Fuchs

Jesus in My Heart

The hardest thing God can ask of us parents is to release our children to Him. We love our children so much that we are tempted to clutch them possessively, to live out our unfulfilled dreams through them. But we do not own our children; they are on loan to use from God. Our task is to teach them to trust God so much that we, their parents, will become expendable. Now, I want to ask three questions of parents, step-parents, and guardians.

ARE YOU GRADUALLY WORKING YOURSELF OUT OF A JOB?

From the moment of birth, a child is gradually separating from parents. The release points are sometimes obvious, often subtle. Grandmother comes over to baby-sit so you can have a night out. Later, the child spends weekends with grandparents. Then, there is the day when you release the child to daycare. Parents often cry on the first day of kindergarten and the opening day of first grade. When the child at the age of eight goes off to summer camp for a week, the parents can hardly bare it.

If you want to do your job well, your child will at some point be able to do just fine without you.

HERE IS THE SECOND QUESTION: HAVE YOU PERSONALLY INTRODUCED YOUR CHILD TO GOD?

Has he been introduced to God when he was a toddler. On a daily basis, his parents should talk about and with God. Have you shared with your child how and when you first entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? You should. Do you pray together regularly? Do you ever read the Bible together? Do you worship together as a family? Is Sunday School as important in your family as public or private school during the week? It should be.

A survey was taken at the University of Chicago on this topic. Graduate students were asked where they got most of their ideas about morality and religion. The majority said, "Through conversation with family at mealtimes."

Ever since the nightmare of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, people across America have wondered what it was that turned two boys, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, into murderers. They were privileged kids in many ways. Growing up in affluent homes with educated parents, they had lots of advantages. They played Little League baseball, went to summer camps, owned computers, and attended one of the best schools in the nation. There were no signs of abuse or dysfunctional parents. So far, only one area of deficiency has emerged. There seems to have been no spiritual training. Eric and Dylan seem to have been reared as though they had no spiritual component. When that vital space of one's life is empty, the Evil One is happy to fill that



space. In the case of Eric and Dylan, resentment and anger moved in and took over.

One wonders how different their lives would have been if someone had introduced them early to our loving God. Suppose someone had helped them get personal with the One who provides us with a status that the world cannot take away, the One who alone can provide the missing part in our hearts and souls.

HERE IS THE THIRD QUESTION: ARE YOU TEACHING YOUR CHILD THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE?

We must teach our children this truth which Paul shared with the Corinthians: "... *God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything...*" (II Cor. 9:8).

The writer Humphrey Lee had an opportunity to visit a small county airport one night and watch a small, private plane take off. Here is how he described it: "*As the plane heads its nose down the runway, an attendant turns a switch, and a pencil of light is thrown along the path of the plane. The plane makes its way along that thread of light until it rises gracefully into the dark sky. The attendant then switches off this beam of light. He has done all he could do. He has not dispelled the darkness, but he has helped the pilot off to a good start.*"

That is all a parent can do. We cannot shield a child from all risk or heartbreaks or tragedies. But we can help a child get off to a good start and then hand him off to that all-sufficient Provider who can go with him even into the darkness.

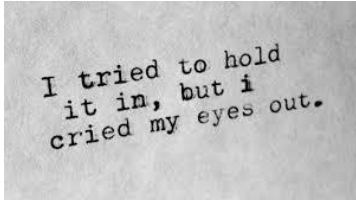
Adapted from "*The Hardest Thing That God Could Ask*" by Bill Bouknicht

You Are Never Alone

Many must deal with fear. There is no greater fear than that of finding one's self suddenly alone. A feeling of intimacy helps us deal with stressful situations.

According to Alan M. Dahms, during World War II, the ratio of German camp guards to American prisoners was 1 to 1. However, there were many successful escapes, and morale, under the circumstances, was high. Prisoners in those camps were held in large group enclosures. In Korea and Vietnam, on the other hand, the ratio of prison guards to American prisoners was 1 to 30; yet there were almost no escapes, and morale was low. In the Asian setting, prisoners were isolated from one another; so they gave up, lost hope, and became psychologically disoriented. The intimacy among prisoners in the German camps may have contributed to their survival.

Writer King Duncan holds that for many of us, the fear of



being alone is almost immobilizing. The heart is overwhelmed with a sense of helplessness.

It is not good that people should be alone. Yet sometimes we do find ourselves alone. Even those of us with families and close friends know what it's like to be alone. There is a gulf there that no human being can bridge.

One man tells about being out of town on a business trip when he received word that one of his children was critically ill. Driving hurriedly back home, this businessman, always so confident in his self-sufficiency, was suddenly engulfed by a terrible feeling of loneliness.

It is not good to be alone. And the good news of the gospel is that we are not alone.

An old Scottish woman who was alone for the greater part of the day was asked, "What do you do during the day?"



"Well," she said, "I get my hymn book, and I have a little hymn of praise to the Lord. Then, I get my Bible and let the Lord speak to me. And when I am tired of reading and I cannot sing any more, I just sit still and let the Lord love me."

We are not alone. And that is the ultimate meaning of the Lord's Supper. Christ is here. He is available to each of us. "This is my body. This is my blood. Take. . . eat. . . drink. I am present. I am with you. You are part of my family. You are not alone."

Adaptation sources: Alan M. Dahms, *Emotional Intimacy* and King Duncan "Being Alone"

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." ~ John Wesley

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God." ~ Hans Urs von Balthasar

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." ~ Jim Elliot

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." ~ Romans 15:13

"Because of the LORD's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." ~ Lamentations 3:22-23

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58



"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." ~ James 1:2-4

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." ~ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Local News



Peter McCollow and Morgan Hardesty married July 15th in Wallace, N. Carolina.

2017 Gymanfa Ganu Update

Director, Ben Williams, is from Louisville, Kentucky, where he developed a love for music at a very early age. Ben grew up in a musical family with both his parents and brother playing musical instruments. Ben began singing at the age of three, and soon after learned to play piano, handbells, saxophone, and oboe. After attending the DuPont Manual High School's Youth Performing Arts School, Ben would go on to earn his Bachelor of Music Education from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and his Master of Music Education from



The University of Louisville. Significant performance venues include Carnegie Hall in New York City, Severance Hall in Cleveland, as well as New Orleans, Boston, Montreal, San Antonio, Los Angeles, Detroit, Louisville, Austin, Dayton, Nashville, and Chicago.

Ben's grandparents are David and Sue (Dustman) Williams, who are both native to the area of Venedocia and Van Wert. In fact, they first met at a Gymanfa Ganu! Ben's family members, Tom Dustman and Christopher Uhl, have conducted prior Gymanfas.



Spencerville Coach, John Zerbe, spoke on July 9th.



Catie Emery played Sandy's little sister, Marina on July 16th for the Time for Children.

Salem Scenes



Sunset at Salem Church



July 18, many youth went swimming at Venedocia Lions Day at Camp Clay. Here is Cory Mullenhour and son, Lucas.

On July 10th, the Venedocia Emergency Warning siren sounded as a tornado was reported at nearby Rockford. Six and a half inches of rain came down at Venedocia within an hour to the already saturated soil. With the community gathered in the basement, rain kept pouring into the church and the manse. Many roads were closed for flooding and some field areas turned into ponds. The rain has helped the area corn, but it has wreaked havoc on the soybeans. The rain made us think of the upcoming Ark replica trips.



The dining area got more than six inches



The kitchen got inches of water



July 22nd, a new four inches rained. Deep creeks were overflowing again. The photo is Venedocia St. Mary's road south of town.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$58,020.00
Received to Date: \$59,452.59

Upcoming: Salem's Noah's Ark Replica Bus Trip Saturday, September 30

See this amazing, full size replica of Noah's Ark at Williamstown, Kentucky! It is 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high and is considered an engineering marvel. It was built of standing dead timber with much of the work done by skilled Amish craftsmen.



You will see three decks including the living quarters for Noah and seven other members of his family, the animal quarters and the storage areas. It is estimated that there would have been about 7,000 animals on the Ark, and it is explained how it would have been possible for Noah to feed, water and clean up after them. The animals would have looked quite different from modern times and you will see life-like sculpted models. Outside you can see many real animals in the zoo. This is the largest timber framed structure in the world and a wonderful experience for people of all ages.

The tour will be gathering at 6:30 a.m. and leaving promptly at 7:00 a.m. from the parking lot of Salem Presbyterian Church in Venedocia. A coffee break is planned for about 8:30 a.m. We will arrive at the Ark at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will



be on your own in their cafeteria. They feature a lunch buffet with the cost: Adult 12.99. Senior Citizen 9.00. Ages 5-12 5.99. They also have pizza at 2.50 per

slice.

You need several hours to see the exhibit so we will spend from noon to 5:00 p.m. there. We will then depart for home with a fast food break on the way. We should arrive back by about 9:00 p.m.

Cost for the tickets: Adults \$40.00. Senior Citizens \$31.00. Ages 5-12 is \$28.00. Cost for the motor coach transportation is \$50 each. A tip for the bus driver is customary of one or

two dollars a person. Reservations and the \$50 cost for the bus tickets are due in the church office by Friday, September 22. Salem Presbyterian Church, 15240 Main Street, PO Box 678, Venedocia, Ohio 45894. (419) 667- 4142.

Prayer Concerns

Norma Adams (Hospice)
 Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)
 Violet Ashton
 Leona Browning
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
 Doris Evans (cancer)
 Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)
 Larry Howell (St. Rita's hospital)
 Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
 Jeremy Hughes (recovering from MRSA)
 Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
 Betty Lloyd
 Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)
 Janet Mohr
 Marian Morris
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
 Dorthea Plikert (Rehab at Roselawn)
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
 Lewis Price (bladder cancer & stones)
 Joyce Profit (heart issues)
 Bob Pugh (arm healing)
 George Siler (physical therapy)
 Bill Stewart (heart issues)
 Marilyn Stockton
 Keith Stoller (surgical complications)
 Thad Summersett (brain tumor)
 Warren Summersett (cancer)
 Natalie Wilkens (90 years old and failing in health)
 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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



Violet Ashton
 Roselawn Manor
 420 E. 4th St.
 Spencerville, OH 45887

Warren Summersett
 Vancrest Healthcare
 10357 VW—Decatur
 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

Marian Morris
 Hearth & Home
 1118 Westwood Dr.
 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
 (U.S. Air Force)
Grandson of Dave & Ann Rees

Micah Linger
 Grandson of Doris Evans
 (U.S. Marine Corps)
 LCTL Linger, Micah
 9 phesb 3mlg H&S Co.
 Unit 38430 FPO AP96385

Phoebe Eutsler
 (U.S. Army)

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Birthdays

4 Phil Eutsler	4 Don Owens
6 Brooke Coil	9 Denise Pugh
11 David Hobbs	20 Austin Kimmet
22 Jan Jones	27 Barb Owens
30 Kelly Lloyd	

Anniversaries

12th David & Carla Breese
 17th Cory & Tamara Mullenhour
 27th Tom & Carol Emery

August 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:30 am Youth trip to the Ark Museum in Kentucky-contact Pastor for questions	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School	7 Vacation Bible School 9:30-11:30	8 Vacation Bible School 9:30-11:30	9	10	11	12 4:00 pm Youth Street Cleaning - meet at manse
13 9:30 AM Worship Guest speaker is Dave Hoose (Gideons) No Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	14 Pastor Tom on study leave from August 13th through 20 th	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 AM Worship Guest speaker is Kevin Clancy No Sunday School	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 AM Worship- 10:45 Session Meeting	28	29	30	31		

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
Aug 6	Kelly Lloyd	August to be announced	Kory & Tamara Mullenour & Dave Rees	Jen Pugh	Jeff & Kim Coil
Aug 13				Liz Hobbs	Todd & Jayne Morris
Aug 20					Gwenda Blackmore
Aug 27					Mark & Missy Zielke



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

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc
Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com



A front porch view from the church.

August 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A	
9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 6	
Gen. 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Rom. 9:1-5	Matt. 14:13-21
10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 13	
Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Rom. 10:5-15	Matt. 14:22-33
11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 20	
Gen. 45:1-15	Psalm 133
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matt. 15:10-28
12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 27	
Ex. 1:8-2:10	Psalm 124
Rom. 12:1-8	Mat. 16:13-20