

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## The Pastor's Thoughts

*I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NLT*

In this last month, we have had three major hurricanes hit the United States and Puerto Rico, two major earthquakes in nearby Mexico, worries that the world's largest volcano under Yellowstone National Park may explode anytime that would put us the world into another ice age, and the threat of an EMP and nuclear war with North Korea. Still some believed till the September day expired that this world would come to an end on September 23 according to hidden prophecies. It seems like enough to concern anyone with what's happening in the world.

Let us be reminded of the promises of Christ. Jesus warned that we would have trouble in this world. But, we would



have Christ who overcame the world. Our troubles can never take Him by surprise, and they will never defeat Christ's eternal purposes for us. Jesus tells us that when Satan is celebrating a victory against us, Christ will turn what seems to be a victory against us, into a true victory for God and His Kingdom. Even up to our last breath, nothing can separate us from God's love and purpose for us. After that, we will be greeted by God's loving arms in heaven.

We can peacefully rest assured if we claim our promises in Christ. In John 14:27 (NLT) Jesus tells us that *“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.* We have nothing to worry about when God is in control.

Pastor Tom

## I Met God in the Morning

I met God in the morning,  
When my day was at its best  
And His presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered;  
All day long He stayed with me;  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind.  
When I too had loosed the moorings  
With the Presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way;  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day.

*By Ralph Spaulding Cushman*

## Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Hymns have a special place within Christianity. They are almost inseparable from the act of worship. Through the poetic songs and anthems, Christians throughout the world

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

express their deepest religious emotions and in this way, connect not only with God, but with other members of their community. In the following monthly segments, we will talk about some of the most important Christian hymns in history and how they originated. Let us begin with:

*"Holy, holy, holy  
Lord, God Almighty*

*All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky  
and sea*

*Holy, holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed Trinity"*

This beautiful hymn was written by the English bishop, Reginald Heber. The song itself refers to the Holy Trinity, so during the singing "The World" is being repeated three times. The text of this hymn is actually a paraphrased text from the [Revelation 1](#) and from the book of the prophecy of [Isaiah](#). This hymn is very special because of its rhythm, which Heber valued. Most of Heber's hymns and poems were published by his widow after his death in 1826.

Adapted from:  
Samuel Albert. *10 Great Christian Hymns and Their Histories*  
Erik Routley. *Hymns and the Faith*. Seabury Press, 1956

### A Christian Take on Halloween

A number of articles are available advising Christians to have nothing to do with Halloween. Christians have no business *celebrating* a holiday that glorifies something that delights the enemy of our souls. And potentially opens us up to demonic harassment, to boot! But if we've got kids, especially kids in public school or who hang around other kids in the neighborhood, it's entirely possible that parents can feel pressured to do *something* about Halloween.

Is there anything intrinsically wrong with dressing up in a costume and getting a bunch of candy from consenting adults? Most don't think so. But God and Satan are real, not a fantasy of our imagination. Jesus took the demonic world seriously, even delivering people from demonic possession. People can be demonically possessed even in our times. But in the Name of Jesus, demons can be cast out of people. We can cooperate with the forces of darkness, however unwittingly, by participating unwisely in Halloween festivities. Let's look at these suggestions:

#### Halloween Don'ts

God gave us some very strict guidelines for our own protection, commanding us to stay away from items and practices of witchcraft and divination in Deuteronomy 18. These "doorways to the occult" make us wide open to the influence of Satan and the demons. So stay away from anything that glorifies:

- **The occult.** Witches, warlocks, sorcerers and sorcery, casting spells, mediums, magic, ouija boards, crystal balls, tarot cards, and astrology are doors to the kingdom of darkness. Satan/Beelzebub masks and costumes have no place on a Christian or in a Christian family—not even

"adorable"(??) little baby devil costumes complete with horns and pitchfork.

***Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.***

- **Death.** Satan has had the power of death over people ([Heb. 2:14](#)) ever since the Fall, and he uses it to control people through fear. Death is an enemy of God ([1 Cor. 15:26](#)), not something to flirt with. Vampires, ghosts, goblins and gargoyles (concepts rooted in the reality of demons) are all figures of death. Think about who you are glorifying God or Satan.



- **Fear.** Fear is both a feeling and a reality where Satan dwells. It is one of his most effective means of spiritual warfare against us. When we use Halloween events, decorations and costumes to cause and build fear in other people, we are cooperating with the sworn enemy of God and of God's people. This would include anything spooky, such as cemeteries, haunted houses, and scary stories. You can now buy "The Scream" masks that are as disturbing as Edvard Munch's original painting; their purpose is to make people afraid, even if they don't know why.

Anything gruesome falls in this category as well; you can buy special effects like fake slash wounds, hanging eyeballs, and stakes through the forehead. Blood and gore are neither funny nor godly. Needless to say, slasher movies and horror films that deliberately terrorize and stir up fear are a tool in Satan's hand. Scripture tells us that God does not give us a spirit of fear ([2 Tim. 1:7](#)), nor does He want us to be a slave again to fear ([Rom. 8:15](#)). Movies like the Exorcist are Satan's arena.

- **Worldliness.** Costumes that glorify some of the world's heroes and heroines can shape our values in ungodly, unchristian ways. Little girls dressing like female pop stars, exposing their midriffs, and looking as sexy as possible, is completely against biblical values. God calls girls and women to dress and act modestly, decently and with

propriety ([1 Tim. 2:9](#)). Costumes of movie and TV characters that represent anti-biblical values are inappropriate for believers (and believers' children).

### Halloween Do's

- Some churches sponsor a Halloween alternative event such as a fall festival, that's a great idea to allow kids to have fun within pre-set boundaries. (Note: it's important to specify what kind of costumes are NOT welcome!)

- Hand out Bible tracts. Give out more than just candy this Halloween! Yes, there is something much, much better than candy. It's being God's friend!

- Look for teachable moments to relate the things of Halloween to spiritual truth. Talk to your kids about the way fear is glorified at Halloween, and teach them what Jesus said about it: "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful*" ([John 14:27](#)), and "*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome*



*the world"* ([John 16:33](#)).

This story making its rounds on the internet is a good pumpkin-carving object lesson: A lady had recently been baptized. One of her co-workers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer, but when she looked up she saw a jack-o-lantern on the desk and answered, "It's like being a pumpkin." The co-worker asked her to explain that one:

*"Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see. It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."*

Talk to your kids about "God's no-no list" in Deuteronomy 18 and have them help you identify those things when they see them advertised or used as decorations. (You might keep

a running total of all the witches you'll see just to quantify this concept.) This is probably the best way to prevent your children from getting desensitized to things of the occult. Help them identify all the Halloween items that strike fear in them, and encourage them to take a stand against their power by saying out loud, "*God has not given me a spirit of fear!*" Show them this verse in their Bibles ([2 Timothy 1:7](#)) so they know they are using the *Sword of the Spirit* against one of the wiles of the enemy.

Adapted from Sue Bohlin, *A Mom Looks at Halloween*. [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org)

### Church News



After hearing much feedback about the elevator operation limitations, Session voted unanimously to install a commercial grade aluminum ramp on the north side of the church to the back door

to allow easy access for wheelchairs and scooters. The final design and figures will be brought before the Congregation meeting for a vote. We all acknowledge that there should be no limitation issues with anyone getting into Salem to worship and fellowship.

### Special Music



Josh Van Gorder



Sheila Collins & David Van Tilburg

### Election Day Supper

Tuesday, **November 7, 2017**

**4:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Venedocia Lions Club Building

#### Featuring:

Lions Club Sausage, Chicken Sandwiches  
Homemade Soup and Desserts

### Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$73,492.00

Received to Date: \$76,458.82

Gymanfa Ganu 2017



The mealtime fellowship



Tom Dustman



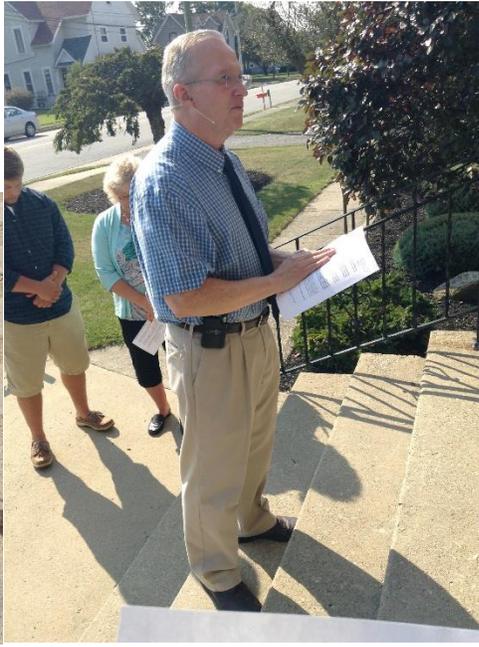
Connie O'Neil and LaDonna Allenbaugh



Ben Williams, Director and soloist



**Blessing of the Harvest - Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday**



Upstart Senior Luncheon and Bingo fun and cheer

**Activities at Salem**



Time for Children "Sandy Skit"



Junior Bell Practice

## Prayer Concerns

Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)  
 Violet Ashton  
 Matt Blackmore  
 Leona Browning  
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
 Doris Evans (cancer)  
 Larry Howell  
 Linda Howell  
 Jeremy Hughes (recovering from MRSA)  
 Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)  
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
 Betty Lloyd  
 Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)  
 Becky Martz  
 Janet Mohr  
 Marian Morris  
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
 Kim Owens  
 Dorothea Plikerd  
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
 Lewis Price (bladder cancer & stones)  
 Joyce Profit (cataract surgery)  
 Randy Richards  
 Laura Saylor  
 George Siler (physical therapy)  
 Bill Stewart (heart issues)  
 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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

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**Evan Pugh** – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

## Birthdays

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2 Kory Mullenhour	8 Bob McCollow
10 Violet Ashton	13 David Breese
13 Kayla Owens/Mumford	14 Jason Kimmet
25 Josh Hobbs	28 Keaton Adkins
29 Nancy Swygart	30 Jeff Coil

## Anniversaries

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2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin & Heather Matthews  
 7<sup>th</sup> Jason & Sarah Kimmet  
 21<sup>st</sup> Bob & Kathy McCollow

# October 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Worship World Communion Salvation Army Offering 10:45 Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>15</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School	23	24	25 <i>Noon - Senior Luncheon</i>	26	27	28
<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School	30	31	27	28	29	30

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
Oct 1	Jen Pugh	Penpark	Jeff & Kim Coil Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Lisa Lloyd 1-15th	Bob & Denise Pugh
Oct 8		Bell Choir		Jean Owens-22nd	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd
Oct 15		Stacey Rife		Eric & Jenny Pugh	Bill & Ruth Evans
Oct 22		Jake Wilder		Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Eric & Jenny Pugh
Oct 29		Madison/Isaiah Pugh & David Lusk			Rex & Lisa Lloyd



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

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Millions of children have already been reached through this ministry which is about the impact of a simple gift, delivered with the Good News of Jesus Christ, into the hands of a boy or girl living in the midst of poverty and despair. Many of these children have never received a gift before and the impact is life changing. Some things have changed this year. They do not want candy or any other kind of food in the boxes and tooth paste is also not acceptable. Postage for the boxes is now \$9.00 which not only pays the shipping costs but also for the 12 week discipleship class for each child called "The Greatest Journey."

**Collection day will be Sunday, November 20.** Please plan to fill one or two boxes and make a life change for the children who get them.

### October 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A

#### 17th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 1

Ex. 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Phil. 2:1-13	Matt. 21:23-32

#### 18th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 8

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19
Phil. 3:4b-14	Matt. 21:33-46

#### 19th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 15

Ex. 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Phil. 4:1-9	Matt. 22:1-14

#### 20th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 22

Ex. 33:12-23	Psalm 99
1 Thess. 1:1-10	Matt. 22:15-22

#### 21st Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 29

Deut. 34:1-12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thess. 2:1-8	Matt. 22:34-46