



**Sunday:**

9:30 AM  
10:45 AM  
Noon

**01-07-18**

Worship (*nursery with Dave & Carla Breese*)  
Sunday School  
Session Retreat

**Tuesday:**

10:00 AM & 7:00 PM  
7:00 PM

**01-02-18**

Women's Bible Study  
Teens for Christ (Spencerville)

**Sunday:**

9:30 AM  
10:45 AM  
5:00 PM

**01-14-18**

Worship (*nursery with Bob & Kathy McCollow*)  
Sunday School  
Trustee Meeting

**Announcements:**

Please sign up on the new 2018 Flower calendar.

The boxes with offering envelopes can be found on the white table in the prayer room. Please sign your name beside the box number you take for the year 2018.

**Women's Bible Study** is on Tuesday 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. The **Teens for Christ** continues this Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Spencerville Nazarene Church.

The **Session** training class is today at noon. Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

**Adult Sunday school** will begin again today. Today's topic is "From Evolution to Creation;" former evolutionist, atheist and respected biology professor, Gary Parker Ph.D., a writer of five textbooks, discusses how the Lord helped him to see the false assumptions behind modern evolutionary belief, and how the Bible's account is more reasonable.

On Sat, January 13, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm at Vantage is a free course called **Children of Trauma**; it is for those who work with at-risk and traumatized children. A foundation paid for the \$130 course. Please let Pastor Tom know if you want to take the course.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the February newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

7<sup>th</sup>-Neil Jean Wienken  
8<sup>th</sup>-Dean Swygart  
10<sup>th</sup>-Dominic Adkins  
11<sup>th</sup>-Ashlyn Price  
12<sup>th</sup>-George Siler

7<sup>th</sup>-Loretta Williams  
9<sup>th</sup>-Megan (Smith) Romano  
11<sup>th</sup>-Chelsey Lloyd  
12<sup>th</sup>-Christina Emery



*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | January 7, 2018

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

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

Peggy Burnett  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Larry Howell  
Linda Howell  
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)  
Jan Jones (health Issues)  
Paula Jones (healing from fall)  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)  
Bob Louth  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Janet Mohr  
Marian Morris  
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
Kim Owens  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
Joyce Profit  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Randy Richards (mowing accident)  
Laura Saylor (Viral Meningitis, wife of Pastor Mike Saylor)  
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)  
Keith Stoller (surgical complications)  
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren S.)  
Warren Summersett (cancer)  
Natalie Wilkins (90 years old and failing in health)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

**Serving our Country:**

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

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Rev. Thomas Emery  
"In the Beginning" Genesis 1:1-5  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
January 7 2018

To the ultimate questions of all questions – “Where did the universe come from?” and “Why does it exist?” - Genesis 1:1 simply states, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (NLT). God's Word to man, says humankind had a divine supernatural beginning. God's hand is behind the entire created order. No natural forces exist on their own. Nothing comes from any other source. God's Word is not only the place where the laws of nature come, but God's Word also tells us how we ought to live.

#### TEACHING POINTS

*First. Belief in evolution is parallel to belief in creationism - both are beliefs which their followers hold to be true, but neither beliefs have been capable of proof.*

*Second. If evolution is such a deficient theory, if, in fact, it not only didn't happen but really couldn't have happened, why do scientists so vigorously defend it? It is because we would have to acknowledge that there is a God to whom we are accountable.*

*Third. Only when you understand how you got here, will you ever know why you are here. Only God can answer the fundamental questions of human existence.*

#### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NLT).*

#### ACTION POINT

The debate provides answers to whether you were created for a purpose, or you have no purpose; whether there is a plan for your life or no plan for your life; and finally whether some things are right, and some things are wrong (and God Word tells us which is which), or right and wrong are merely up to majority vote. Then, we look at the world we live in today with weeds, pests, bacteria, viruses, murder, rape, war, hatred, and violence, and we have to ask, “So what happened?” The lesson is this - there is a hole in your soul that can only be filled by the God who created you. The reason the Creator God came to earth and lived and died as a man and was raised from the dead was to fill that hole with grace and forgiveness and love. Understand not only that you were created, but also understand that the Christ of Creation wants to personally relate to you, both now and forever. With that awareness, life will begin to be lived with purpose and fulfillment. Why not speak to God now, and let Him know that you also want a deep loving relationship with Him?

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