

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 20 Issue 07

July 2018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

- ¹ *How joyful are those who fear (reverence) the LORD—
all who follow his ways!*
- ² *You will enjoy the fruit of your labor.
How joyful and prosperous you will be!*
- ³ *Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine,
flourishing within your home.
Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees
as they sit around your table.*
- ⁴ *That is the LORD's blessing
for those who fear him.*
- ⁵ *May the LORD continually bless you from Zion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live.*
- ⁶ *May you live to enjoy your grandchildren.
May Israel have peace! (Psalm 128 NLT).*

Recently, my household had a young man over to our house for a family dinner. He was startled that our whole family gathered around the table, and we said grace over our meal. I came to find out that he was from a broken family that never ate together, and his siblings were separated in divorce. The family members were in their own orbit.

Grapes and olives were the pleasures offered to the Jews in the Promised Land. The 128 Psalmist describes the biblical father and mother like grapevines and the children as olive plants assembled around a table with an atmosphere of tranquility, stability, and harmony. Most families are not like that.

My family of origin wasn't much different than the young man's family. Back then, we had TV dinners on aluminum trays, and the TV was the babysitter in my non-Christian family (today it would be videos, cell phones or computer games). I wanted better in my life after I came to Christ. Once married, my wife and I had a meeting of the minds that everyone as a priority would at least once a day sit down together over a meal and tell others what is going on in their lives. We could show our care about each other.

The 128 Psalmist was trying to show the path of true happiness in the home. Even in the chaos of busy schedules (sports/work), you can find satisfaction in the home if you practice three things. The first is to reverence God in the home fully. The second is to trust God, and the third is to give obedience to the ways of God. Again, the Bible is the right path to happiness!

Pastor Tom

God Bless the U.S.A.



If tomorrow all the things were gone
I worked for all my life
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife

I thank my lucky stars
To be living here today
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away

And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend Her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt
I love this land
God Bless the U.S.A.

From the lakes of Minnesota
To the hills of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Houston
And New York to L.A.
Where's pride in every American heart
And it's time we stand and say

That I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend Her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt
I love this land
God Bless the U.S.A.

And I'm proud to be an American
 Where at least I know I'm free
 And I won't forget the men who died
 Who gave that right to me
 And I'd gladly stand up next to you
 And defend Her still today
 'Cause there ain't no doubt
 I love this land
 God Bless the U.S.A.
 Song by Lee Greenwood

However, the Christian (biblical) view is that the right to live does not exist by virtue of being born, but by virtue of being created first in the mind of God ([Jeremiah 1:5](#)). [Acts 17:25](#) says that God “gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” The Bible is saying here that the life of man is sustained by God, and as such, it belongs to Him.

But Americans generally believe that we are free to do with our lives just as we please because we believe our lives belong, primarily, to us. For a Christian, God's law is the absolute truth, and the final authority. It tells the Christian “Thou shalt not murder” and “Thou shalt not bear false witness.” But the United States shows, both by the lives of her citizens and the laws passed in her

courts that she does not recognize the authority of God nor respect His laws.

What does “**liberty**” mean to a Christian? Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and the freedom to bear arms are some of the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights. All of these freedoms are good things valued greatly by Americans. Today, however, our nation has, for the most part, rejected the Bible as the standard of right and wrong. So, now liberty has an additional meaning to our citizens: it means that we are ultimately free to do whatever we want. It means that we control our own destiny—or that we should—and that nobody can tell another person what is right or what he should value.

This mindset has had disastrous results. In America now, everything is subjective. In the face of the monstrous tragedy of abortion, Americans echo the words of Pontius Pilate: “What is Truth?” Our personal choice has become the only thing we truly value. We are tolerant above all, but only because to put down another person's freedom is to endanger our liberty. Practically speaking, since such a wide variety of religions are now represented among our citizens, how can we say “America is a Christian nation” without obliterating the Christian faith?

A Christian individual will not kill or hurt someone of another religion who refuses to convert. However, the Bible is clear: we are not to tell people that all roads lead to heaven. There is one Way, and His name is Jesus Christ.

The Bible informs Christians that freedom and liberty are good and right. But, it also gives us the context of

Are We Now a Christian Nation?

America has become a secular nation, meaning that the attitudes, activities, and culture have no Christian or spiritual basis. This tells us that Christians need to purposely share their faith as the average person will not naturally “pick up” on or be exposed to the salvation offered by Jesus Christ by merely being in the culture. In fact, most young church members will lose their faith when immersed in the culture if their faith is not grounded in a solid Biblical understanding. The ungodly forces have won the cultural wars in America. But still, unlike other nations, America is a place where we can freely share our faith and pray for a revival.

The best way to determine the current circumstances of the nation is to compare the philosophy of its people to the Word of God.

The Declaration of Independence states that every person has these God-given, inalienable rights of **life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**. This philosophy is what we could call the “**American Worldview**,” and it drives everything about the nation— from its economic and foreign policy to the private lives of its people. This is the atmosphere in which most of us have grown up.

But can this American Worldview be called a Christian Worldview? Can we call the United States a Christian nation?

First, what does “**life**” mean to a Christian? Most Americans would say we have a right to be alive, just by virtue of having been born. Most Americans would say we have the right to do with our lives as we choose because our lives belong to us. Christianity agrees that we have the “right to life” and recognizes that life comes from the Creator, just as the Declaration says.

Can the current American Worldview
 be called a Christian Worldview?
 Can we still call the United States a Christian nation?

that freedom: we have freedom as Christ's followers, because we trust in His righteousness, instead of our own. We were slaves to this world, and to sin. Now we are slaves to Christ – and that is a Christian's definition of freedom. That doesn't sound much like the definition of Liberty that is held by the government or the citizens of America.

Now, the **Pursuit of Happiness**: what is it, to a Christian? In the Bible, happiness is an emotion that is welcomed but not to be sought after. We seek God, and joy is a result of closeness to Him. But joy is different from happiness. Joy is a spiritual contentment and pleasure that comes from the Holy Spirit. A person must be in fellowship with the Spirit to experience joy, and it transcends circumstance.

The apostle Paul said that he had "learned to be content whatever the circumstances" ([Philippians 4:11](#)), and Paul's circumstances were hardly the sort to produce happiness: beatings, stoning, shipwreck, hunger, thirst and danger. But his joy and peace were from God, not from his circumstances.

In contrast, Americans tend to believe we are to pursue, at all cost, happiness in our lives here in this world. Pursue happiness, the American is told, at the cost of all else. If it makes you happy to leave your wife and children, do it. If it makes you happy to devote your life to stardom at the expense of friends and family members, you should follow your dream. If you are a man but you think being a woman will make you happy, have a sex change. Play video games 10 hours a day? Drink yourself to death? Get married to your dog? Sure, if it makes you happy!

Perhaps when the Constitution was framed, the Judeo-Christian ethic of "love thy neighbor" was understood as a foundational principle upon which to base our right to pursue happiness. But it has changed over the years to mean a right to pursue individual pleasure, no matter how strange the means, without being judged by your fellow man and without regard to how that pursuit affects the other person's rights or freedoms, or affects the fabric of society itself.

But consider [Mark 8:36](#): "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" For the Christian, this thought is central: nothing is gained from pursuing comfort and happiness here on earth. Nothing

is really gained, for a Christian, by "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The Christian person pursues other things: "Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" ([2 Timothy 2:22](#)). "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" ([Romans 14:19](#)). "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness" ([1 Timothy 6:11](#)).

Christians are concerned with the spiritual – because they belong to another country; they are citizens of a spiritual country, the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus commanded us in Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

So, is the United States a Christian nation? No. Not in its philosophy, or in what it loves, or in what it does. Despite its earlier Judeo-Christian roots and heritage, and the beliefs of some of its founders, the United States today is a nation that follows other gods, and lives a lifestyle that is not compatible with Christianity.

But the Good News is that God calls us to be His hands and feet in this nation, to reach out and to share our faith lovingly. Let us pray for our nation, and let us be Christ to our family, friends and neighbors!

Adapted from "Is America a Christian Nation" Got Questions

God does not love us equally...he loves us uniquely by Lisa Bevere.

"What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are." – 1 John 3:1 Message

In our human pursuit of all things fair, we may be tempted to think God loves us all the same, but I actually don't believe this is true. The term, "same" sounds as though we might be replaceable. Like, "Oh no I broke the glass I bought at Target last week I hope they still have the same purple ones in stock." Or "My dog just wandered off the grid, that's ok I will substitute another one that I will love just the same." In the realm of God's love you are irreplaceable.

God does not love us equally... he loves us uniquely.

If you are a parent of more than one child you may already understand this. When that second, third or more child is born, your love is not divided it multiplies. Your love for each child is unique. Each child awakens your parental love in a different way. Interestingly you may love something unique about one child that is the opposite trait of something you love in another. I love her feistiness & I love his gentleness.

Equal also implies love may be measurable and it is not. Our Father's love cannot be likened to a pan of brownies or a cherry pie that is painstakingly cut into equal portions so that no child feels slighted. His love is not a matter of portion control...it is far vaster than that. He loved you before there was a beginning and his love for you knows no end...it is ever lasting. Our father's love is infinite. He does not have love for you (like here is your perfectly sliced pie piece)...he is love for you. Our Father's love is infinite, intimate and unique.



Asher & Sophia: my grandchildren that I love uniquely.

You are uniquely loved because you are uniquely created. When God created you he had your unique heart expression, smile, and voice in mind. There are facets of your life that reflect his love uniquely in our earth. He wove all these exceptional aspects and specific talents into the DNA package of a you.

This means if you are a son he does not love you more, if you are a daughter he does not love you less. He loves both genders uniquely. There is nothing accidental about any aspect of you. God was highly intentional when he wrote the story of your life and knit you in your mothers womb.

So what does this mean to you? Infinite is more than enough immeasurable inexhaustible love for all. Don't

try to be someone you are not in an attempt to earn the love and acceptance of others. Don't compare yourself with another, there is no need for comparison or competition. You will only exhaust yourself. Be a true friend by being the authentic you. His love is more than enough. His love for each of us is equally unique. So celebrate unique & don't settle for equal.

Bible Translation

There are many people who suppose that Bible translation has been misheard, or misinterpreted. Every time the Bible was translated from one language to another, it lost something in its meaning. What we have today, states this argument, is substantially different from the intention of the original.

However, this is not actually how Bible translation happens. We do not translate from language to language to language. We have manuscripts in the original languages. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, with a little in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek. These are known languages, widely studied, and we have numerous manuscripts of biblical books in these languages.

So, for example, an English Bible has been translated directly, in one step, from the original languages. When a Bible is translated into a new language, it is not translated from English to that new language; it is translated directly from the original languages. We can have confidence that we are reading God's word properly in English.

Adapted from "Is It Rewritten" by CreationMoments



Parent presentation for Area Youth Bible Boot Camp June 4-9



Ice Cream Social June 15



Spencerville Parade June 23



Chocolate Zucchini Cake

from the kitchen of an anonymous member

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| ½ C. soft margarine | ½ C. veg. oil |
| 1 ¾ C. sugar | 2 eggs |
| ½ C. sour cream | 2 ½ C. flour |
| 4 tsp. cocoa | 1 tsp. soda |
| ½ tsp. baking pwd. | ½ tsp. cinnamon |
| 2 C. shredded zucchini | |

Directions:

- Blend all ingredients
- Sprinkle ¾ cup chocolate chips on top before baking
- Bake 40 to 45 min. at 350 degrees in bundt pan or 35 to 40 min. in 9 x 13 pan



Sandy skit for Time for Children

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$48,175.00
 Received to Date: \$47,173.98

Reserve **September 2** on your calendar for the **2018 Gymanfa Ganu**. Trefor Williams will direct and Connie O'Neill will be on the organ with Mary Ann Owens Matthews on the piano.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Serving our Country

Natalie Morgan Wilkins

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Bob Louth

15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Dorothea Plikerd

418 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Marian Morris

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

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

David Hugh Evans

The Meadows
800 Ambrose Dr. Room#306
Delphos, OH 45833

Cory McCollow

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Micah Linger

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

Swab Madison Pugh

USCGA
15 Mohegan Ave
8785 Chase Hall
New London, CT 06320

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Condolences

No Condolences listed in June- Thank God for our many blessings.

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Gloria Leiter | 1 Owen Pugh |
| 2 Lynette Lloyd | 6 Charles Boroff |
| 6 Herman Wienken | 10 Tuzz Hobbs |
| 10 Mark Zielke | 13 Cory McCollow |
| 15 Barb Good | 16 Ron Owens |
| 18 Marjorie Eutsler | 20 David H. Evans |
| 24 Evan Pugh | 25 Kent McClure |
| 26 Brent Price | 29 Heather McClure |
| 29 Doug Strickler | 31 Kristyn Jones |
| 31 Zach Wise | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore | 15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs |
| 4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins | 24 Bill & Ruth Evans |

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Burnett (cancer)
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
David Hugh Evans
Doris Evans (cancer)
Jim Francis
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Lori Hunter (amputation)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas)
Jan Jones (health Issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Carol Lee

Barbara Lewis (heart attack)
Jim Lloyd (healing from leg surgery)
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Marian Morris
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling
Brent Price (recovering from heart surgery)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Bobbie Spyres
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

July 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship	2	3	4 4 th of July	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship 5:00 pm trustee meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship. 10:45 Session meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	23	24	25	26 Camp Clay Swim Youth Event	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	30	31 VBS 9:30-11:30	1 VBS 9:30- 11:30			

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
July 1	Lainie Jones	Gwenda Blackmore	TBD
July 8	To be determined	Mark & Missy Zielke	TBD
July 15	To be determined	Ross & Alyssa Evans	TBD
July 22	To be determined	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	TBD
July 29	To be determined	Dave & Carla Breese	TBD
Ushers	Corey & Tamara M. & Dave Rees	Greeter:	Dave Rees

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



Madison Pugh Graduate Recognition.
Presented with a study Bible going off
to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy
for a Mechanical Engineering Degree



Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc
Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

July 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 1	
2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130
2 Cor. 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 8	
2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10	Psalm 48
2 Cor. 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 15	
2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19	Psalm 24
Eph. 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 22	
2 Sam. 7:1-14a	Psalm 89:20-37
Eph. 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
10th Sunday after Pentecost – July 29	
2 Sam. 11:1-15	Psalm 14
Eph. 3:14-21	John 6:1-21