

Sunday: 12-9-18
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Eric & Jenny Pugh*)
10:45 AM Sunday School
4:30 PM Trustee Meeting
5:30 PM Caroling
7:00 PM Manse Party

Tuesday: 12-11-18
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Sunday: 12-16-18
9:30 AM Children's program (*nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd*)
10:45 AM Short Session Meeting

Announcements:

The **Women's Bible Study** is this Tuesday, December 11, at 7 PM. We are going through the Book of Matthew. All are welcome.

The **Salem Youth Christmas Service Program** is on December 16.

Our church is collecting **packets of gravy** for the Salvation Army Christmas baskets. Our goal is 400 to 500 packages. Today is the last day for collecting gravy packets.

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 are taking for the year 2019.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc or PastorTomEmery@live.com.

Upcoming Birthdays

9th-Jason Lloyd 13th-Marilyn Stockton 17th-Jeremy Morris

Upcoming Anniversaries

16th-Kent & Heather McClure



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 9, 2018

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Peggy Burnett
Jim Davis (cancer)
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Judy Foust
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Bob Hundley (cancer)
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)
Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friend of Evelyn Martz)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Larry Lloyd
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Gwen Montez (Vertebrae & internal surgery)
Marian Morris
Kim Owens
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Shelly (vertigo)
Bobbie Spyres
Natalie Wilkins (failing in health)
Noah Wyatt (brain surgery)

***Condolences to the family of Linda Young**

Serving our Country:

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

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“Creator and Redeemer” Malachi 3:1-4
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 9, 2018

Israel heard from the Prophet Malachi that God was purifying Israel by the afflictions that they were suffering. So too, God may be refining us by the fires of His daily judgments. But His aim is always that of love -- to rid us of our sin. Our Lord, by His Spirit at work in our lives and the world, is taking away the sin that will make us unable to endure the coming of the Day of the Lord. By His action as the Refiner of our lives, God in Christ can keep us from falling, and to present us without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing (Jude 24). In our helplessness, we need someone to prepare us, to remind us, and to point us in the right direction out of the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are lost on our own and self-destructive.

POINT TWO – We just obey, and God honors our obedience by blessing us with gifts

POINT THREE – While on earth, don’t waste your time.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

² “But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes (Malachi 3:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People need to be aware of the fact that they were undeserving sinners, but also that they could also be bound to a forgiving God who wants to give them hope. We are not capable of changing ourselves. Because we are sinners, our attempts at self-reform will always come up short of what God requires of us in the Ten Commandments of the Covenant. However, as the Covenant helps us to recognize our inadequacy, the Covenant also helps us to realize that God made the Covenant with the intent of helping us. The Covenant declares that we should have been entirely dependent upon God in the first place. That is what John the Baptist was preaching about when he taught a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by the Lamb of God. Why not turn to the Jesus who can give us hope and a future by making us right with God?

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