

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## Pastor's Thoughts

<sup>31</sup> Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. <sup>32</sup> It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches" Matthew 13:31-31 NLT.

As we begin our New Year, it is important to keep your



eye focused first on serving God and His Kingdom. Many times, we miss opportunities to do God's will in small things, because they seem so unimportant. Perhaps, smiling at someone or giving someone a needed hug or listening for a moment might make a difference in someone's day. There are other things you can do.

A friend of mine once saw that a van pulled up alongside him in a Mc Donald's drive-through with two ordering lanes. The mini van was beat up and missing hug caps. A mom was driving with four little ones in the back seats. He overheard her order attempt before he moved forward, and he watched her counting change and pennies and changing her order with the money she could pull together to pay for her order. When he drove forward and paid his tab, he said to the teenager wearing a headset, "I want to pay for the van behind me as well. Tell them that '**Jesus paid for it all,**' and give her the rest of the change for the money I paid."

He then pulled around at a distance and parked after getting his order to see what happened as he began eating in his car. She was stunned that her bill was paid. He saw that she began to cry as she pulled forward. My

friend knew he made a difference in someone's day and that Christ got the glory.

You might also have only a few minutes of free time to do something for God, so you might be tempted to do nothing. You might be tempted to focus your eyes on doing the big thing for God and leave the hundreds of small things undone.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed tells us that the smallest seed of God's love can redirect someone's day or even change a person's eternity. We are God's hands and feet in this world. God blesses us so that we can bless others.

We are not to judge anything's worth by its small size. Remember that when Jesus was crucified, His Kingdom was a Mustard Seed. But it has growth to extend into the whole globe. Likewise, your seed of ministry will grow into eternal-life producing trees. Matthew 10:42 NLT, says, "If you give a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will be rewarded."

Remember, intentions and public commitments don't change our hearts. We transform our hearts by acting on the Word of God. Without action, good intentions are worthless. God doesn't want our promises, he wants our obedience with actions. This coming year let us focus on planting seeds each day and each moment.

*Pastor Tom*

## Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year  
Just one request I bring:  
I do not pray for happiness,  
Or any earthly thing—  
I do not ask to understand  
The way Thou leadest me,  
But this I ask: Teach me to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.  
I want to know Thy guiding voice,  
To walk with Thee each day.  
Dear Master make me swift to hear  
And ready to obey.  
And thus the year I now begin  
A happy year will be—

If I am seeking just to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

--Unknown Author

## 10 Hopeful Bible Verses for the New Year Bring in the New Year Meditating on God's Word



Bring in the New Year meditating on these encouraging Bible verses chosen to inspire a fresh walk with God and a deeper commitment to living the Christian faith.

### New Birth - A Living Hope

Salvation in Jesus Christ represents new birth -- a transformation of who we are. The start of a new year is a great time to reflect on the new and living hope we have in this life and in the life to come:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3, NIV)*

### Hope for the Future

We can trust God in the year ahead, for he has good plans for our future:

#### **Jeremiah 29:11**

*For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (NLT)*

### A New Creation

This passage describes a transformation that will eventually lead to the full enjoyment of eternal life in the new heavens and new earth. Christ's life, death, and resurrection introduce followers of Jesus Christ to a foretaste of the new world to come.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV)*

### A New Heart

Believers are not merely changed externally, they undergo a radical renewal of heart. This total cleansing and transformation reveal the holiness of God to an unholy world:

*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command. (Ezekiel 36:25-27, NLT)*

### Forget the Past - Learn from Mistakes

Christians aren't perfect. The more we grow in Christ, the more we realize how far we have to go. We can learn from our mistakes, but they are in the past and need to stay there. We look forward toward the resurrection. We keep our eyes on the prize. And by maintaining our focus on the goal, we are pulled heavenward. Both discipline and perseverance are required to accomplish this objective.

*No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. (Philippians 3:13-14, NLT)*

*Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:10-11, NIV)*

### Wait on the Lord - God's Timing Is Perfect

We can be content and wait for God's timing, for it is sure to be the right time. By waiting and trusting patiently, we gain quiet strength:

*Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7, NLT)*



*Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. (Isaiah 40:31, NASB)*

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV)*

**Each New Day Is Special**

We can count on God's never-ending love and faithfulness with each new day:

*The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD*

*is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" (Lamentations 3:22-24, NASB)*

Adapted from an article by Mary Fairchild, ThoughtCo.com.



**Trustee Update**

In 2017, \$7,866.50 was spent on elevator repairs and inspections. An awning was installed over the outside elevator door at a cost of \$2,812.00. Adding insulation to the church attic was \$1,900. Six ceiling fans were replaced at a material cost of \$948.01. The ServiceMaster charge was \$1,696.59 to dry out basement after flooding. \$1,024.00 was spent on repairs to the bell tower. In 2018, Elevator costs have been \$485, a new screen door was added to the north side of the church, and high efficient LED lights were placed above the sanctuary to shine on the cross. The Trustees mulched and maintained the landscape around the church in both 2017 and 2018.

**Church Financial Update**

Needed to Date: \$100,204.00  
 Received to Date: \$103,399.05

**2019 New Officers**

Session:	2019	2020	2021
	Dave Rees	Bob McCollow	Rex Lloyd
	Jeremy Morris	Gwenda Blackmore	Kim Coil
	Morgan Pugh		Marylin Foust
Trustees:	2019	2020	2021
	Jeff Lloyd	Mark Zielke	Jeff Owens
	Dan Lloyd	Todd Morris	Pete McCollow
	David Breese		Jim Lloyd



Dec. 5 - David Owens 93<sup>rd</sup> tractor birthday cake at the Senior Luncheon



Dec. 9 – Manse Party serving room



Dec. 10 – Lions Club Meeting discussing Christmas street lights and Van Wert Fair Grounds improvement ideas with Kathy McCollow



Dec. 9 – Caroling at Van Crest with Warren Summerset



Dec. 16 – Youth Christmas Service



Dec. 16 – Youth Christmas Service



Christmas Eve Readings



Dec. 16 – Adult Sunday School studying Reformed Theology History



Christmas Eve Communion



Dec. 20 – Sunday service Advent Candle lighting with Liz and Tuz Hobbs. Evan Pugh and Shonda Marley singing



Christmas Eve Service Silent Night singing

# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

## **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

## **Marian Morris**

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

## **Warren Summersett**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW—Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Dorothea Plikerd**

418 East 4th Street  
Spencerville, OH 45887

## **Serving our Country**

### **Cory McCollow**

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

### **Cpl. Linger, Micah 2nd**

Grandson of Doris Evans  
MEMES Support Battalion  
PSO Box 20085  
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

### **Phoebe Eutsler (Army)**

## **Away at College**

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

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**4/C Madison Pugh**- U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
15 Mohegan Ave  
8785 Chase Hall  
New London, CT 06320

## **Birthdays**

2 Chris Beck	3 Emily Blackmore
5 Karen Pugh	6 Jim Lloyd
7 Nell Jean Wienken	7 Loretta Williams
8 Dean Swygart	9 Megan Smith
10 Dominic Adkins	11 Chelsey Lloyd
11 Ashlyn Price	12 Christina Emery
12 George Siler	16 Rob Breese
16 Liz Hobbs	28 Scott Fair
30 Doris Price	30 John Smith
31 Carrie Jones	

## **Condolences**

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

## **Prayer Concerns**

Kylee Ball (surgery)  
Peggy Burnett  
Jim Davis (cancer)  
Mark Davis  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Betty Ellis (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)  
Jan Jones (health issues)  
Paula Jones (healing from fall)  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
Barbara Lewis (heart attack)

Linda Lissey (cancer)  
Bob Louth  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
Sarah Miller (health issues)  
Gwen Montez  
Marian Morris  
Kim Owens (cancer)  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling  
Joyce Profit  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)  
Shelly (vertigo)  
Bobbie Spyres  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

# January 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Noon-Session Retreat	7	<b>8</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	9	10	11	12
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship Officers Installed 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	14	<b>15</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	16	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Music Committee. meeting	18	19
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship Annual reports due 10:45 Sunday School	21	<b>22</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	23	24	25	26
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship Reports available to the congregation 10:45 Sunday School	28	<b>29</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	30	31		

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
January 6	TBA	Jeff & Kim Coil	TBA
January 13	TBA	Todd & Jayne Morris	TBA
January 20	TBA	Gwenda Blackmore	TBA
January 27	TBA	Mark & Missy Zielke	TBA
<b>Ushers</b>	The Price Family	<b>Greeter:</b>	TBA

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



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## *Sounds of Salem Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)  
[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](http://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

Secretary E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131  
Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

**January 2019  
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY  
YEAR B**

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**Epiphany of the Lord – January 6**

Isa. 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Eph. 3:1-12	Matt. 2:1-12

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**Baptism of the Lord – January 13**

Isa. 43:1-7	Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – January 20**

Isa. 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10
1 Cor. 12:1-11	John 2:1-11

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – January 27**

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19
1 Cor. 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21