

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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March 2019

Pastor's Thoughts

When finishing high school, I was a staff volunteer at a City Recreation Center. I was assigned one week to help chaperon intercity middle school kids to Kings Island riding a school bus there. I soon discovered, that the kids had made a secret pact between themselves, that once inside the gate, they would scatter in all directions. They did, and it led the volunteers to panic.

Quickly, I found one of the unpopular seventh graders who didn't go with their crowds, and she asked me to ride the rides with her. I agreed, and we were off knowing with the grouping of kids that they would be easy to find by the other staffers.

It was fun with her, until she said, "Please ride the Beast with me!" I had never been a fan of roller coasters, and certainly not a wood one that at that time was billed as the "world's highest and steepest."



She kept saying, "Please, please, please!" I eventually gave in, and we went through the line. Of course, the cut off was right in front of us, so next up we had the first choice of any seats. She wanted the absolute front seat of the roller coaster.

I thought, "This is not going to end well." I took a deep swallow, and soon the coaster started up the steep incline with the sound, "clug, clug, clug" of the gears. I was quickly gripping the seating bar for dear life. Suddenly, the coaster let loose, and we went into a terrifying free fall that seemed like it took forever. I looked over, and she was standing straight up waving her arms, not holding on. Forgetting my fears, I had to physically pull her back down into her seat to protect her life. Everything rushed by so fast. She was having the time of her life not knowing fear at all, while I gripped

the handlebar with one white-knuckled hand and her as tight as I could.

Reading the Bible later in life, it reminded me of the fear that the disciples had during a violent wind storm with waves sweeping over their boat on the Sea of Galilee. They found Jesus asleep down below. They shouted to Him, "Don't you care that we drown." He let them know that without faith in Him that it is easy to believe that circumstances control your destiny.

In His hands and in the Father's hands, there is safety. Nothing can remove you from their eternal protection. Fear is simply a mirror that displays your lack of faith. Jesus spoke to the waves, and the storm immediately ceased.

Once you ponder the Word of God, you are comforted that, "I [Jesus] am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)."

Now with Christ in my life, I can look back on my life and realize that I can enjoy the roller coasters and the storms of life. I know that God is in control, and my fears can be replaced with confidence and peace. That can be done even riding the "beasts" of circumstances we encounter in the world.

Pastor Tom

Fear Not

Fear not my child,
for I am always with you
do not be afraid
for my strength will ensue.

Fear not my child,
for I am your God and Savior
do not be alarmed
for you shall have my favor.

Fear not my child,
for I will not forsake thee
do not be troubled
for I am known to calm the sea

Fear not my child,
for I hold you in my right hand
do not be frightened

for in my grace you will stand!

Fear not my child,
for my goodness never fails
do not be anxious
for my mercy never pales!

By Deborah Ann Belka, Churchart.com

ISAIAH 41:10

**"FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU; BE NOT
DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL
STRENGTHEN YOU, YES, I WILL HELP YOU, I
WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT
HAND."**

St. David's Day



Salem will celebrate St. David's Day this March 3 with the Sunday Service. A reception will follow.

St David's Day offers you a golden opportunity to greet any friends, family and colleagues from Wales in their native tongue. In the Welsh language, "Happy St David's Day" translates as "**Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus**." If Welsh pronunciation isn't your strong point, a rough phonetic translation of the phrase would be: "deethe goil Dewi hapeece."

St David's Day is marked every year on March 1st, the date of the Welsh patron Saint's death. It has been celebrated regularly since David was canonized by Pope Callixtus II in the 12th century. It is celebrated in Welsh communities across North America. Parades are held in many towns. Various customs developed. These include the wearing of daffodils and leeks – two of the most recognizable symbols of Wales – and eating traditional dishes such as Welsh rarebit.

Adapted from "When is St David's Day, why is he the Welsh patron saint and what did he do?" By David Hughes. iNews The Essential Daily Briefing

Ash Wednesday



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted

and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy."

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Salem's celebration is on Wednesday, March 6. It begins with a 6:00 PM meal supplied by the Pugh family and a time of observance at 7:00 PM. All are invited.

Important Dates of Lent	Brief Overview of Significance	2019 Date
Ash Wednesday	The beginning of Lent, a day of reflection and repentance from sin	March 6, 2019
Palm Sunday	Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem	April 14, 2019

Holy Week	The week leading up to Easter	April 14- April 20, 2019
Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles	April 18, 2019
Good Friday	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary	April 19, 2019
Easter Sunday	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over sin and death.	April 21, 2019



Here are a few verses specific to Ash Wednesday to meditate and reflect on to observe the day.

- **Our Creation:** [Genesis 2:7](#) - Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
- **Our Curse:** [Genesis 3:19](#) - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”
- **Our Cry of Repentance:** [Psalm 51:7- 10](#): Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Adapted from: “What Is Ash Wednesday? & Why Do Christians Celebrate It” by Kelly Givens. Christianity Today

Why Attend Church?

Let me ask how are you doing? How are you doing in your church attendance? How faithful are you really in supporting the church with your presence??

Let me put that in perspective by asking you some questions:

If your car would start one out of three times, would you consider it faithful?

If your television worked sixty percent of the time, would you consider it faithful?

If your newspaper delivery person should skip your house every other day and an occasional Friday, would you call that faithful?

If your water heater should greet you with cold water three mornings a week, would it be faithful?

If you should fail to come to work five or six days each month, would your employer consider you faithful?

If you should miss a couple of house payments in a year, would your mortgage holder say, “O well, ten out of twelve months, that’s not too bad?”

If you attend church once or twice a month, 25% or 50% of the time, would you say that you’re faithful? It’s something to think about, isn’t it?

Now, with all of this as a backdrop for our thinking, let me give you my list of three reasons why we go to church - three reasons that explode out of our text for going to church today in Isaiah 6.

In this powerful story, we see Isaiah experiencing the presence of God in the Temple in a life-changing way... and out of that experience, he senses three dramatic things.

1. A Closeness to God.
2. A Compassion for People, and
3. A Call to Ministry.

And that is precisely what worship does for us. It draws us closer to God; it gives us a compassion for other people; and it calls us to ministry.

Let’s take a look at these together... one at a time.

I. FIRST OF ALL, GOING TO CHURCH DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD.

Isaiah came to church that day, and he had one of those mountain-top experiences with God... an experience

much too powerful to express in words... an experience that drew him closer than ever to God.

Put that over against this. Do you remember how in the New Testament right after the miracle of Easter, the Risen Lord appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room and they were absolutely "bowled over" by this incredible experience of seeing with their own eyes the Resurrected Christ. He had defeated sin and death, the most amazing miracle of all time, the greatest news of all time... and together as a church, family, the disciples all experienced it... all that is, except Thomas!

Thomas missed it for one reason and one reason only. He wasn't there! He was absent! Now, we know in His grace and compassion, the Risen Lord came back and appeared again later just for Thomas, but, it's a haunting story, isn't it? There's a sermon there somewhere and I think it has to do with this:

- How many great moments with God have you missed?

- How many life-changing moments with God have you missed... simply because you weren't there,... simply because you were absent from church... simply because you haven't really made up your mind yet to commit your life to God and the church?

II. SECOND, GOING TO CHURCH GIVES US COMPASSION FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

In church that day, Isaiah became concerned about the people. He wanted to reach out and help them. Church at its best makes us more compassionate people.

Statistics show that people who go to church regularly are happier and more satisfied than those who don't. And regular church-goers live longer, a new study has revealed. Think of that going to church adds years to your life and life to your years.

Regular church-goers are more loving, more generous, more caring, more gracious, more moral, more honest, more accepting of others. They are less-prejudiced, more committed to family life and more involved in working and serving out in the community to improve the quality of life for everybody and especially for the less fortunate.

Why is that? It's because no institution in the world teaches love and compassion like the church does. Remember that famous Mother Teresa quote. Someone asked her how she could find the strength to

work daily with all those need people. She answered: "I look into their faces and see the eyes of Christ."

She learned that in church. The church teaches us to see every person we meet as Christ in disguise. The church teaches us that we are not isolated Christians. We are family.

III. THIRD AND FINALLY GOING TO CHURCH CALLS US TO MINISTRY. It calls us to serve.

That, too, happened to Isaiah that day long ago. There in church... he felt the tug of God... he realized that a prophet was needed for that time. And he said: "Here Am I, Lord, Send Me!"

Watching the World Series recently, I had a strange thought. Imagine this:

You go out to the baseball park this Tuesday night for the first World Series game. After the pre-game festivities, the introductions, and the National Anthem,... the team huddles up in the dugout with their manager and coaches.



Suddenly, the umpire shouts: "Play Ball," and a crazy thing happens. All the other players stay in the dugout, and the coaches run out on the field to play the game!

Think about it, Jesus did not call a single Priest or Rabbi to be one of His disciples. He

called Lay people to help Him do His work... and listen! He is calling you right now. He has a special job that only you can do.

Can you hear His call? And can you say with Isaiah": "Here am I, Lord, Send me."

Going to church, supporting the church with our presence-that is so important because: It draws us closer to God; it gives us compassion for others: and it calls us to ministry.

Adapted from "What's So Great about Going to Church" by James W. Moore



February 3 – Junior Choir singing



February 10 – Wrenley, Michael, & Lindsay Breese



February 3 – Children's Sunday School



February 24 – Junior Bell Choir



February 27 – Roof work began repairing the high wind storm damage



February 17 - Guest speaker Kevin Clancy

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$15,562.08
Received to Date: \$15,326.15

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

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

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

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 Marilyn Stickler	8 John Morris
11 Todd Morris	14 Larry Caffro
14 Elijah Martz	16 Pastor Tom Emery
20 Johnathon Morris	20 Brian Owens
22 Toby Adkins	23 Josh Hoehn
23 Joyce Profit	28 Ron Richards

Condolences to the family of Warren Summersett

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Peggy Burnett
Jackie Coalson (COPD)
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
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 Huster (cancer in lungs & pancreas)
Jan Jones (health Issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Kale (nightmares)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Barbara Lewis (heart attack)
Linda Lisse (cancer)

Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Gwen Montez
Marian Morris
Chance Mosier (shoulder surgery)
Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Goni Robeson (severe health issues)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Shelly (vertigo)
Deb & Steve Sheppard (health issues)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's dad)
Herb Summersett (prostrate cancer)
Kerry Walls (recovering from broken back)
Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health)
6 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

March 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 St. David's Day 9:30 Worship and Communion 10:45 Sunday School	4	5 7pm Women's Bible Study	6 6 pm Ash Wed. Meal-Pugh's 7 pm Service	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	11	12 7pm Women's Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Noon Session Meeting	18	19 7pm Women's Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	25	26 7pm Women's Bible Study	27 Noon-Senior Luncheon	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
March 3	Penpark	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	TBA
March 10	TBA	Bill & Ruth Evans	Bill & Ruth Evans
March 17	Joyce Morris	Eric & Jenny Pugh	Bill & Ruth Evans
March 24	Jr. Choir-bells	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Bill & Ruth Evans
March 31	LaDonna Allenbaugh	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	TBA
Ushers	Rex & Lisa Lloyd family	Greeter:	Morgan Pugh

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



Feb 10- Rod Eutsler & grandchildren entering church

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

March 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
Transfiguration of the Lord – March 3	
Exod. 34:29-35	Psalm 99
2 Cor. 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
1st Sunday in Lent – March 10	
Deut. 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Rom. 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
2nd Sunday in Lent – March 17	
Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27
Phil. 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
3rd Sunday in Lent – March 24	
Isa. 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
4th Sunday in Lent – March 31	
Josh. 5:9-12	Psalm 32
2 Cor. 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32