

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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Pastor's Thoughts



¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:13-14 NLT).

When I was in college, among other paths I sought out Eastern religions. I now know that I was searching everywhere for meaning in life. I felt empty inside. Nothing seemed to satisfy me. Buddhism held that "all pain came from attachment." To avoid pain, you become detached from earthly things, and you meditate to completely still your thoughts by practicing Matras (words repeated over and over). It seemed to make sense until I realized that the leaders were morally depraved and not practicing what they preached. I looked for something that was real and with integrity. Buddha died and was buried and is still there.

As we prepare our hearts for a meaningful experience of this Lent Season, we can think through what Jesus meant when He talked about fulfillment and integrity.

He hit the nail on the head with good advice that when we focus on things in this world, our joy fades. While the world promises to fulfill you, things of this world lose their luster. We get tired of possessions. Relationships are not as happy after hurtful flaws of character appear. He said in Luke 12:15b (MSG), "Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

After years of looking, I finally found it in the lives of Christians who sold out themselves to giving their all-in full commitment to becoming Christ-like.

The one true God gives us an emotional meter to gauge when we are focusing on the wrong things. Even church services don't satisfy when they become routine when we focus on things in this world. There is only one place which can fulfill our deepest longing; it is a relationship with Jesus who can give us the source of living water. The forgiveness through Christ will cleanse you from guilt. It will take away your fears. It will give you peace during life's uncertain storms. It will provide you with emotional security.

Jesus warned us in Matthew 16:27 (NLT): "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your Soul?"

This time of Lent ask yourself, "Am I spending time pursuing things of this world and neglecting my soul? Have I fallen into that worldly trap, or do I seek things of eternal worth?"



Don't let yourself be deceived; this world is not your home. All earthly pleasures will come to an end. Jesus said that yoking your soul to God and His Word is like a tree planted by living waters. When you store up treasures in heaven, you will be blessed throughout eternity by them. Reading and meditating on God's Word gives you daily nourishment of life in this world.

Now for Easter Sunday, put yourself in the shoes of those Jerusalem dwellers who cried out to Pontius Pilate, "Crucify Him." After Jesus was crucified, I bet that they were empty inside after denying Him. They knew that Jesus healed many and even rose a few from the dead; some were still undeniably in their midst. Think about the overwhelming joy that they must have felt when the resurrected Jesus was seen by over 500 in Jerusalem.

With His appearance, Jesus was not seeking vengeance, but He was offering unconditional love and forgiving acceptance. He explained that His death and resurrection were both according to the plan of God for making them right with God. Think about how fast the Gospel Message spread with hope that everything that

Jesus had said was true. He proved it by coming back from the dead.

Jesus' simple words probably came back to their minds of John 15:9-10 (NLT). ⁹"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love."

This Lent season can become meaningful with Jesus foremost in your life. Jesus said in John 15:11 (NLT): "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

Pastor Tom

Forgiven at the Cross



I laughed and mocked as He walked that day,
up a hill to redeem my soul.
I joined the crowd to spit and jeer,
and I watched His sorrow grow.
I drove every nail deep in His hands
with every sin in my heart.
My rebellion shoved the thorns in His head,
and my strife tore His robe apart.
I used my hatred to give Him a bitter drink,
and I glared down on Him with pride.
I thought of past disappointments,
and with my anger, I pierced His side.
I denied His power and ignored His worth
and stood waiting for His life to end.
I watched the last drop of His blood fall,
not knowing my grief would begin.
I looked around to find His accusers,
but no one was there but me.
I looked at my hands; they were stained with blood,
and then I began to see.
Conviction slowly entered my heart,
and I dropped all my weapons of choice:
the pride, the anger, the hatred, the lust,
and then I heard His voice.
"Forgive her Father, I died for her.

I paid the price for her soul,
I bore her sickness and all of her pain,
and now I have made her whole."
He looked down on me with loving eyes.
He saw my present, my future, my past.
He knew I needed a Savior,
and my soul had found Him at last.
I looked around to find His accusers,
but no one was there but me.

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Why Did Jesus Have to Die on the Cross?

It isn't clear why Jesus' death had to be on a cross, although crucifixion was the cruelest manner of execution in Roman times, a fitting penalty for the sins of all humanity.

It is clear that crucifixion was the only death that would fulfill the Old Testament prophecies, the predictions, of what would happen to the Messiah.



A foreshadowing of Jesus' crucifixion is recounted in Numbers Chapter 21. God had already delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. He had taken them safely across the Red Sea and drowned the Egyptian army that pursued them. Then He had provided them with water in the desert and miraculous food, called manna, which appeared on the ground like dew in the morning. He even helped them to defeat their enemies.

But the people grew impatient and started speaking against God and Moses, their leader. They complained that Moses had led them out to die. They said they hated the manna God gave them. Even though God had rescued them over and over, they didn't believe He would help them. They chose hopelessness instead of faith, and they dishonored God's name.

Then God sent poisonous snakes among them to punish them. Many Israelites were bitten and died. So the people went to Moses and admitted that they had

sinned. They pleaded with Moses to ask God to send the snakes away.

In answer, God instructed Moses to make a bronze snake and place it on a pole. People who were bitten and looked at the bronze snake were healed.

Jesus referred to this incident in reference to His own mission. He said that He would have to be lifted up in the same way that Moses lifted a snake in the desert. Jesus would be held up on a pole (the cross) so that people who believed in Him could have eternal life (John 3: 14–15).

Another passage that foreshadowed the manner of Jesus' death appears in Isaiah. He predicted that the coming Messiah would be "pierced" or "pierced through" for our wrongdoings (Isaiah 53:5).

King David prophesied a horrific death for the Messiah. He wrote that evil men would pierce His hands and feet, His heart would melt like wax within Him, and His life would be poured out like water while people stared and gloated over Him. All His bones would be out of joint, and His tongue would stick to the roof of his mouth (Psalm 22:14–18).

Psalm 22 describes a crucifixion, yet in David's time, this manner of execution was unknown. It was only by the inspiration of God that David was able to describe what would later happen to Jesus.

The prophet Zechariah wrote: the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares . . . I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son (Zech. 12: 10 NIV).

This passage not only predicted the manner of the Messiah's death, but also the person who would die, the Lord God Himself.

Although we cannot be certain why God chose death by crucifixion for His Son, we do know that this manner of death was a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah. We also know that through His suffering, Jesus, God's only Son, paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, including yours and mine.

"Why Did Jesus Have to Die on the Cross?" Copyright © Jeanne Dennis.



The following series is a reprint from the historical archives of an Ohio City newspaper unnamed and undated.

The Salem Presbyterian Church of Venedocia has an interesting and inspiring heritage. Founded by hardy, God-fearing pioneers it continues after one hundred and twenty-eight years to be the religious inspiration for the community.

The very first church meetings were held in the log cabin homes of the three families who had arrived in 1848. On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock they held a "preaching" meeting. The men took turns opening the meeting by having a hymn, reading from the scripture and a prayer.

Mr. Bebb or Mr. Morris would then read a sermon from a volume of sermons. Mr. Bebb owned one by Rev. Charles, and Mr. Morris had one that had been published in Liverpool. The meeting closed with a hymn and a prayer. At two o'clock, Sunday School met under the direction of Mr. Bebb who had trained under the Rev. Charles of Bala, Wales. All of the services were, of course, in Welsh.

So, the first Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church began. The first Welsh sermon preached by a regular minister was delivered in June 1848, by Rev. Michael Jones of Bala. From time to time after that many ministers visited the settlement.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bebb and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jervis, Mr. and Mrs. David Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Jones, and Mr. David M. Jones comprised the membership of the first church. Within the next two years David Owens, Edward Jones, Robert Richards, David Hughes, Roland Evans, Richard Evans, D. J. Jones, D. Davis, John Richards,

John M. Jones, J. J. Jones and their families, all coming from Wales, were added to the membership.

The first church building was erected in 1851. It was a frame building 20 by 30 feet located across the street from the present church. The dedication sermons were preached by the Reverends Robert Williams and Evan S. Jones of Jackson, Ohio.

Several more Welsh settlers arrived during the years 1850-1852.

In 1853, the first full time minister, Rev. Hugh Pugh, began a service to the community which lasted for twelve years. Leaving here in 1865 for Sugar Creek, Putman County where he served until his death in 1878. He was followed by Rev. J. P. Morgan who served for seventeen years, 1865 to 1882.

In 1866, under the pastorate of Rev. Morgan a second church was built on the lot where the present church stands.

An accident occurred at the raising of this church, but marvelously no lives were lost. When in the act of lifting the heavy roof timbers into position, the beams on which the workmen were standing broke and eight men, mingled with plank and pikepoles, fell...40 feet among the joists below. Miraculously all escaped with their lives. The men were Rev. J. P. Morgan, D. W. Evans, William E. Jones, Hugh E. Evans, Jonathan Jones, William Finrock, David M. Jones and John Breese.

The Rev. Hugh Davis came in 1885 but served only one year. It was during this tenure that the first manse was built. It stood just north of the church. He was followed by Rev. Vaughn Griffith who came in 1886 to serve until 1889. In 1890, Rev. Thomas Roberts came and he served until 1895.

In 1890, twenty members withdrew from Salem to form the Bethel Church. It, too, was Welsh Calvinistic Methodist and was located on the Wren-Landeck Road at the Jones-Hughes intersection. This church and the Horeb church shared the same minister. There were at one time two other churches, one on the Jonestown, Wren-Landeck crossing and one on the Brodnix Road on the farm now owned by Don Fissel. These two were English Methodist Evangelical.

To be continued each month

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$23,343.12
Received to Date: \$22,128.25

March Events



March 3 - Communion on St. David's Day



March 3 - St. David's Day reception event



March 6 - Ash Wednesday meal by the Pugh family and Prayer Service



March 10 - Carol Emery as "Sandy" skit during Time with Children



March 17 - Liz Hobbs as "Dora, the woman at the well" a during Lent Play



March 24 - Kim Coil as Marah with Lent Candles



March 23 - Free eye exams at Salem given to preschoolers with the Venedocia Lions Club



March 27 - Senior Luncheon servers for St. Patrick's Day



March 23 - Venedocia Sausage Pancake Day at the Lions Club

Thank you notes

Dave and Jean Owens would like to thank everyone for their prayers, beautiful sympathy cards, expressions of love and concern in the loss of our dear Kim. We will always miss her but we are glad her suffering is over and she is in heaven.

The Warren Summersett family thanks you for the flowers, the prayers, for visiting Dad, for sending cards, for Christmas caroling, and so much more. God Bless You.

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

Roselawn Manor
420 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Marian Morris

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

Dorothea Plikerd

Roselawn Manor
420 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 Lyndi Forsythe

8 Andy Breese

13 Sami Jones

16 Anne Morris

22 Elgarda McGee

25 Julia Moliter

29 Jenny Pugh

30 Ruth Evans

6 Carol Emery

12 MaKenna Kimmet

16 Bill Evans

20 Kevin Matthews

23 Grant Zielke

26 Gwenda Blackmore

30 Bob Bolton

Condolences to the family of Kim Owens and Alice Schaufelberger

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)

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)

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 Lissey (cancer)

Bob Louth

Becky Martz (health problems)

Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)

Sarah Miller (health issues)

Gwen Montez

Marian Morris

Dorothea Plikerd

Joyce Profit

Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)

Marjorie Rhodes

Julie Sheets (lung cancer)

Shelly (vertigo)

Deb & Steve Sheppard (health issues)

Herb Summersett (prostate cancer)

Doug Wierwille (cancer)

Natalie Wilkins (failing health)

Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

April

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7pm Women's Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	8	9 7pm Women's Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Session Meeting 5:00pm Trustee meeting	15	16 7pm Women's Bible Study	17	18 6pm meal by the Morris family 7pm Service & communion for Maundy Thursday	19	20
21 EASTER SUNDAY Great Hour of Sharing 8:00 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Flower the Cross 9:30 AM Worship	22	22 7pm Women's Bible Study	24 Noon-Senior Luncheon	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship w/guest speaker Kevin Clancy	29	30 7pm Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
April 7	Double Quartet	Jeff & Kim Coil	TBA
April 14	Jr. Choir & Bells	Todd & Jayne Morris	TBA
April 21	Easter Sunday	Nursery available-not staffed	Vern & Liz Hobbs
April 28	TBA	Gwenda Blackmore	Vern & Liz Hobbs
Ushers	McCollow family	Greeter:	Rex Lloyd

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



March 23 Lions Pancake Breakfast Event

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

April 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
<hr/> 5th Sunday in Lent – April <hr/>	
Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126
Phil. 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
<hr/> Palm/Passion Sunday – April 14 <hr/>	
Luke 19:28-40	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil. 2:5-11	Luke 23:1-49
<hr/> Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – April 21 <hr/>	
Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
<hr/> 2nd Sunday of Easter – April 28 <hr/>	
Act 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29
Rev. 1:4-8	John 20:19-31