

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 21 Issue 5

May 2019

## Pastor's Thoughts

*And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before (2 Peter 2:20 NLT).*

A friend of mine was the Associate Pastor in a large mega church of 5000 in attendance. He was put in charge of the upcoming baptism ceremony when perhaps 50 people would be baptized during the baptism service. Just before the ceremony, he met the candidates behind stage. He explained that the band would do two worship songs, and then the ceremony on stage would begin at the uncovered baptism pool off the right side of the stage. Photographers would take their photos before and after they were dunked by the Senior Pastor.

Making chit-chat before going out, he asked, "Does everyone here believe in God? They all said, "Yes." But then, one young couple replied, "I believe in God, but don't push that Jesus stuff on us."



The purpose of baptism is to declare to the world that you will thereafter live a totally committed life to Christ. Infant baptism brings the child into the fellowship of Christ just like circumcision used to do in the Old Testament. The church vows to raise the child in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. In Junior High, the child will be instructed to make a personal stand for Christ in the Confirmation Class and before the congregation.

My friend was floored at the ignorance. After that in staff meetings, he demanded that Christ would be upfront on each sermon. The focus should be on a relationship with

Christ rather than something like, "Five ways to a better life... etc."

The reason for the church is to tell the world about the Good News that Jesus is the Ruler of the universe that He created. The only way to be reconciled to God is through a relationship with Christ who paid the price for our sins by dying in our place on the cross.

John 14:6 says: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"

My friends, if church is just a routine Sunday social gathering, you are missing the purpose of being in church. The arrangement of the service is to open our hearts and minds to Christ. It is a place to be recharged before going out into the mission field upon leaving. That's why the benediction calls for service after leaving church.

I hope that next Sunday, you are among us taking your walk with God seriously. You can start a routine of Bible reading, devotions and prayer at any time. We have two good Bible studies. The Session is willing to create new ones if you only express your willingness to attend. Why not become serious about your journey with Christ that ends with eternal life?

*Pastor Tom*

## When I say, "I am a Christian"

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"  
That's why I chose this way".

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble –  
Needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian"

I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are all too visible  
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache,  
Which is why I seek His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority...

**I only know I'm loved**

Carol Wimmer

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If you have never surrendered your life to Christ, and would like to know Him, you can start today. Believe in the resurrection of Jesus, repent to God of your wrongs, say a prayer similar to this, tell others about your newfound faith, and your journey with Christ will begin:

### **Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, I want to trust You from now on. Thank You, for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Make me be the person You want me to be. Thank you, for enabling me to trust You in these uncertain times. I pray this to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

<https://thoughts-about-god.com>

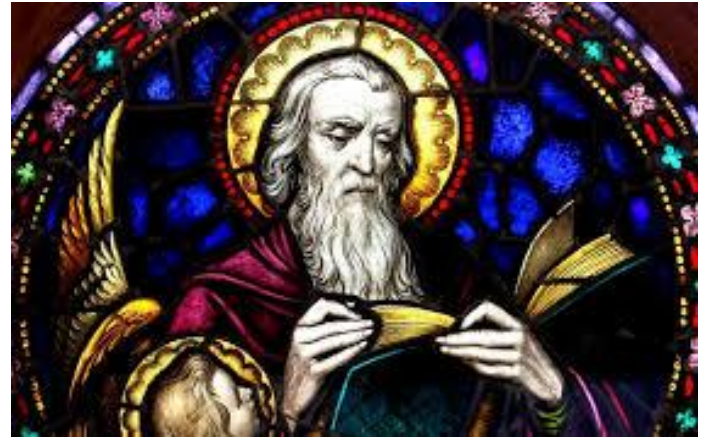
## **The Gospel of the Kingdom through Matthew**

The Gospel of Matthew is an account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and King predicted by the Old Testament.

"Gospel" literally means "Good News," and Matthew's purpose in this book is to write an account of the good news of Jesus Christ. How Jesus came, what Jesus did, what Jesus said and what Jesus accomplished in His death and

resurrection. These truths are intended to change our lives and the entire world.

In order to understand Matthew's Gospel, we need to understand what it is and what it is not. It is *not* a congregational letter like Timothy's and Paul's letters. It is



*not* a comprehensive biography. It is *not* a chronological history; although it begins with the birth of Jesus and ends with His resurrection.

Matthew's Gospel is an intentional and beautiful portrait of Jesus' words and deeds. The book of Matthew is one of four Gospels:

John: Jesus is the Son of God  
Luke: Jesus is the Son of Man  
Mark: Jesus is the Suffering Servant  
Matthew: Jesus is the Sovereign King

Matthew 1:1-17 gives us the genealogy of Jesus beginning with Abraham, (through whom God promised blessing would come to the whole world), to King David to Joseph, (Jesus' adoptive father).

All throughout the Old Testament the ancestors of Jesus were a sin-filled people and included men and women from other nations and cultures. Included are liars, cheaters, murderers, prostitutes, adulterers and evil kings leading God's people into sexual sin and idolatry. Jesus certainly has a crooked family tree. Matthew includes Jesus' mother Mary through which Jesus came to an unwed mother surrounded by ridicule and rumors. What an unexpected way to bring the Son of God into the world! This was to show that the promised Messiah was sent to save all people from all nations and all cultures; to save us from our sinful, wretched lives destined for eternal death.

The message for us is that *God saves through His sovereign grace*. Jesus came not because of Israel's righteousness, but

in spite of Israel's sinfulness. Jesus came for (and through) the morally outcast. He also came for (and through) the ethnically diverse. God saves ultimately for His global purpose. Jesus fulfills God's promise to bless His chosen people. Jesus accomplishes God's purpose to bless all peoples.

In verses 18-25 we see that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human, and He has come to save His people from their sins. Jesus came to a virgin mother, to an adoptive father, amidst a fallen world. Jesus is the Son of Man, He is fully human. Jesus possesses the full range of human characteristics. He became physically tired, hungry and thirsty. Mentally, He grew in wisdom. Emotionally, He would become overwhelmed with grief, He laughed and smiled. Jesus is fully able to identify with us.

As the Son of God, Jesus is fully divine. He possesses the full range of divine characteristics. He has power over disease. He commands nature. He has authority over sin. He has control over death. Jesus is fully able to identify with God. The incarnation is the most extraordinary miracle in the whole Bible. The Incarnation is the most profound mystery in the whole universe. He was born a baby and sustains the universe. He was 30 years old and He exists eternally. He was tired and omnipotent. He died and conquered death. He has returned to heaven and He is present with us.

When Jesus left His Throne of Glory in Heaven, He confirmed that God is the Creator and Re-Creator of all things. God is always faithful to His Word. God is transcendent over us, yet He is present with us.

Matthew's Gospel teaches us that ultimately, Jesus came to rescue the lost. Although God is transcendent over us, He is present with us. That is, in His glory, God is far above us, but in His grace, He is near to us. He is Immanuel, which means "God is with us".

Adapted from David Platt's "Christ - Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Matthew" used recently in the Women's Bible Study

### **Salem United Presbyterian Church History**

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

#### **Salem Presbyterian Church Article Part 2 of 3**

#### **Seventh Day Adventist Church**

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Elgin, Ohio, was organized by Elder O. J. Mason, March 26, 1889, and was composed of nine members at the time of its organization, seven of whom united by letter from the Mendon Church. They were Amy Van Eman, Benj. W. Van Eman, McDonald

Van Eman, Jennie Van Eman, John Van Eman, Chester Smith, Bell Smith, John W. Shultz, and O. M. Shultz, Senior. Mr. J. W. Shultz, A. E. Van Eman and Mrs. Hattie Parrott comprised the first officers.



By 1905 the membership had increased to 62. A church was erected on property given by Mrs. Amy Parrott located on Main Street. Services were held in this church for eighty-two years. Unfortunately, because of many of the members moving away and several of the original ones passing away, the church was closed in 1970 and subsequently the building was old and town down.

#### **Venedocia Presbyterian Church**

Prior to 1885 there had been no religious services held in the English language in Venedocia. At this time, however, a number of English-speaking families had located in the village. Feeling the need for some kind of religious service they organized a Sunday School. It met in the first brick schoolhouse which stood across the street from the present church. Mr. Henry Mash was the first superintendent. The Sunday School met regularly until several of the families moved from the village and the Sunday School was abandoned. *(To be continued next month).*

### **Trustee Report**

#### **Church Infrastructure Items:**

With one of coldest winters on record our infrastructure has held up remarkably. The following is a list of repairs and upgrades that have previously been completed.

1. Frozen water line in the back bathroom of the Manse was replaced.
2. Broken and missing slate from a March windstorm were replaced and repaired along with one copper downspout on the SW corner of the Church.



3. As many have noticed there is a new concrete approach from the sidewalk to the main exterior staircase.

4. The elevator passed its yearly inspection and a faulty switch was repaired.

**Future Endeavors:**

1. The installation of a new center light fixture on the new concrete approach.

2. Sealing of the new concrete to protect against the use of salt and water infiltration.

3. After extensive searching, a glass artisan was found that can replicate the glass globe missing from the main chandelier inside the Church. This will be installed in the coming weeks.

4. A new basement entry door has been ordered and will be installed this spring.

**Church Financial Matters**

Currently the general fund is below our goal of 10% of our yearly operating budget. The general fund is maintaining 7% of our yearly operating budget. This is mostly due to high propane bills from the record cold snaps this winter.

Careful and diligent research is being carried out by the trustees to move our "Memorial Fund" that is currently invested in a CD at an interest rate of roughly 1.3% into a more lucrative yet conservative mutual fund. The goal is to select a fund with a 5% rate of return.

Questions and concerns can be directed to Pete McCollow at [petermccollow@gmail.com](mailto:petermccollow@gmail.com) or 419-302-2998.

**Church Financial Update**

Needed to Date: \$33,069.42

Received to Date: \$32,234.08

**April Photos**



Venedocia sidewalk improvement work is almost finished



Rained out Egg Hunt passing candy to car windows



April 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Luncheon



Palm Sunday Procession





Junior Choir



Easter Flowering of the Cross



Maundy Thursday meal before the Communion Service



Easter Family picture time with Dave and Jean Owens



Maundy Thursday Communion



Lent Sunday Service Skit Readers



Kelly Lloyd as "Judith the Servant Girl"

# 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

## **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

## **Anniversaries**

13<sup>th</sup>-Jerry & Marylin Foust    20<sup>th</sup>-Mark & Missy Zielke

## **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

**Phoebe Eutsler** (Army)

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

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

## **Birthdays**

2 Audrey Hobbs	3 Kim Coil
3 Deb Fair	3 Eric Pugh
4 Rod Eutsler	4 Heather Matthews
6 Emma Jones	7 Josh Lloyd
8 Bob Pugh	9 Linda Fisher Howell
10 Rex Lloyd	12 Sandy Clayborn
14 Bob Louth	15 Dane Ebel
16 Chance Mosier	17 Mary Jane Haines
17 Delayna Profit	17 Stacia Profit
18 Ione Owens	19 Holden Price
22 Dawson Kimmet	23 Carolyn Girod
25 Taylor Hoehn	

**\*Condolences to the families of Joyce Profit and Herman Wienken**

## **Prayer Concerns**

Kylee Ball (surgery)  
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)  
Peggy Burnett  
Billy Coalson (agent orange)  
Jackie Coalson (COPD)  
Barry Coil (stroke)  
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)  
Aaron Francis (broken leg)  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Bill Harmon (cancer)  
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)  
Linda Howell (hospice)  
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)  
Evelyn Martz (cancer)  
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
Sarah Miller (health issues)  
Gwen Montez  
Marian Morris  
Dorothea Plikerd  
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)  
6 Natalie Wilkins (failing health)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

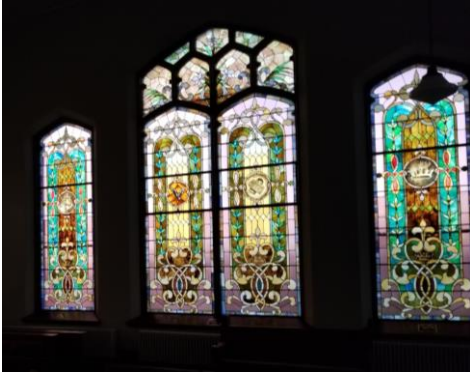
May 2019



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 pm Trustee meeting	6	<b>7</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	8	9	10	11
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	13	<b>14</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	15	16	17	<b>18</b> Park Cleanup at 10 AM
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Session Meeting	20	<b>21</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> Noon-Senior Luncheon	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30 Worship Memorial Day Recognition 10:45 Sunday School	<b>27</b> 11:00 am Venedocia Memorial Day celebration in the park	<b>28</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	29	30	31	

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
May 5	Jackson Dunlap	Mark & Missy Zielke	Vern & Liz Hobbs
May 12	Jr. Choir Bells	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Marylin Foust
May 19	Sheila Collins	Dave & Carla Breese	Marylin Foust
May 26	Jake Wilder	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Marylin Foust
<b>Ushers</b>	Eric & Jenny Pugh family	<b>Greeter:</b>	Morgan Pugh

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



Salem Prayer Room Stained Glass

## *Sounds of Salem Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

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

**May 2019  
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY  
YEAR B**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 5**

Act 9:1-6 (7-20)      Psalm 30  
Rev. 5:11-14      John 21:1-19

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**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 12**

Acts 9:36-43      Psalm 23  
Rev. 7:9-17      John 10:22-30

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**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 19**

Acts 11:1-18      Psalm 148  
Rev. 21:1-6      John 13:31-35

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**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 26**

Acts 16:9-15      Psalm 67  
Rev. 21:10; 21:22-22:5      John 14:23-29



