

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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July 2019

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in Him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day" (John 6:40 NLT).

When I was four years old, I remember asking my dad if he believed in God. He came from a religious childhood background, but I later surmised that he lost his faith during the bloody World War II fighting as a Marine fighting to protect our American way of life.

Right after Pearl Harbor during the patriotic fervor and right out of high school, he signed up with the Marine Corp outfit that would "get the most action." And they did. He repetitiously embarked on first wave island landings in the Pacific. Unfortunately, he wasn't well-anchored in the Word of God. Right away, he had seen and experienced too much terror at an early age that had broken many men with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The young soldiers were seeing the worse of life.

This world can be a horrendously, cruel, and inhumane place. It can also be a place of crimes, betrayals, and disappointments too much for the strongest to handle. We must hold everything loosely in this world; we don't know when it will be taken away. Unless we get our bearings straight by anchoring our faith, security, and trust foremost in God, we can also lose our direction in this world.

This world is not the way God desired for it to be. The Good News is that God promises to remake this world into one where it is described in Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe **every tear** from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." That's what we all really want; isn't it?

What hadn't dawned on my dad was that Jesus came as a person so that people could see God for the first time. Jesus did only what the Father wanted Him to do. Jesus told His disciples that if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father. Read about Jesus; He was the most loving and merciful person who ever lived.

Or look at it this way; God understands everything we can go through from minor things to even being mocked, tortured, and sacrificed on a cross. This is because He also lived through it. Jesus came to earth

during the cruel Roman occupation of Israel and was born to a family in extreme poverty. He could have come as a king, but He didn't. God understands our circumstances. He came to die for sinners to pay the price to make them right with God.

If you wonder why your faith is weak, it is because you need to look to Christ for fulfillment and to anchor your life. This world cannot satisfy us. Jesus called Himself the "Bread of Life." He wants us to feast on knowing Him deeper every day. If we come to God through Jesus, we are offered eternal life in a world that will be remade by God as the world that He intended before Adam and Eve's fall and exclusion from the Garden of Eden. All the tears, death, sorrows, and pain will be gone forever.

Why not seek the Christ who came to set you free from your fears? Learn how amazing Christ is and know that you can take your refuge in Him.

Pastor Tom

Independence Day: Our Christian Heritage



For 235 years, America has been blessed as the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. These blessings are not accidental they are blessings of God. This is evident as we look at the turmoil in other nations and contrast that to the stability we see in America. Preserving American liberty depends first upon our understanding of the foundations on which this great country was built, and

then it depends on preserving the principles on which it was founded.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from England. Two days later, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. Four days later, members of Congress took the document and read it out loud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, and afterwards they rang the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the top of the bell is Leviticus 25:10, which reads, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

John Adams said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." Probably the clearest identification of the spirit of the American Revolution was given by John in a letter to Abigail the day after Congress approved the Declaration. He wrote her two letters that day: One was short and jubilant that the Declaration had been approved; the other letter was much longer and gave serious consideration to what had been done that day. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations.

Adams also noted: "This day will be the most memorable epic in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." He felt the celebration should be in a manner that would commemorate the day as a "day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty." John Adams believed that the Fourth of July should be a religious holiday. The two top holidays celebrated in this country are Christmas and the Fourth of July. According to John Quincy Adams, the two dates are connected. On the Fourth of July, the Founding Fathers simply took the precepts of Christ and His birth (Christmas) and incorporated those principles into civil government.

The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. On the morning of the signing, there was silence and gloom as each man was called up to the table of the President of

Congress to sign the document, knowing that it could mean their death by hanging.

Most wars have a motto. The motto of World War II was "Remember Pearl Harbor." The motto during the Texas war for independence was "Remember the Alamo." The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated Gods laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out.

Independence Day: Our Christian Heritage. Copyright 2011, David Barton.



Jesus on the 4th of July

We gather 'round to celebrate
On Independence Day
Pay homage to our country
As the children run and play.

With barbecues and picnics
And fireworks in the air
The flag we own is proudly flown
To show how much we care.

The stars and stripes spell freedom
She waves upon the breeze
While bursts of colors can be seen
Above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful
We revel in delight
But God above in divine love
Has brought this day to light.

With just a stroke of liberty
A touch of His great hand

He gave democracy to us
And helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag
Were touched by His sweet grace
Each star of white that shines so bright
Reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag
For battles that were fought
Be filled with pride for those who died
And freedoms that were bought.

But don't forget to thank the One
That gives the bright display
The reason why we paint the sky
On Independence Day

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Triumph through Temptation Matthew Chapter 4:1-11

The Temptation of Jesus is a familiar passage for many Christians. The meaning of this story is crucial in our own battle against sin. We need to see the close tie between the temptations Jesus faced and the spiritual battles we all face. We need to understand there is a spiritual world. The Devil is real. The invisible spiritual world is just as real as the visible natural world. Angels, good and bad exist all around us.



We are involved in spiritual warfare, the Kingdom of Christ against the Kingdom of Satan. Light and darkness are warring against each other. We must remember Satan is not omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time) like God is. So, remember when you are tempted; Satan is only a creature. Trusting in Christ for salvation, the battle intensifies. The evil one is persistently plotting to subtly entice you with sin and ultimately bring destruction to your soul. Don't be caught unaware.

The good news that Matthew teaches is that a new Man has come, a Man over whom Satan has no control. His Name is Jesus. In Matthew, we see Jesus is the new Man, who stepped into the universal human story. Jesus is the true Son, suffering through the particular Israelite story. Every sin we commit is a rejection of God our Father, the

One who knows what is best for us and is committed to providing it for us. It's crucial then, for us to see Jesus is the true Man and the true Son.

God **never** tempts us in the sense of enticing us to do evil. However, **nothing** happens in the universe apart from the sovereignty of God. We are tested by God for good. Satan tempts, he intends it for evil, but God uses these temptations to refine His children and to teach them His faithfulness. Consider Joseph in the Old Testament, who was sold into slavery and tempted in so many ways. God used these trials to bring about good for Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 50:20). Our sovereign Father uses even Satan's temptations to bring about good in your life. (Romans 8:28).

Jesus **could not** have sinned. Jesus is fully human. He was fully tempted. He is fully God and God **cannot** be tempted. Just as Jesus was tempted (as a human), so we are tempted with **self-gratification**. Satan works at the level of our wants. You desire food, and he tempts you toward undisciplined overeating. Desire for sleep is tempted with apathy and laziness. Desire for sex is tempted with lust, adultery, pornography and homosexuality. We must do what Jesus did. Jesus trusted in the all sufficient, all satisfying goodness of God the Father, Trust that God is good and realize any attempt to satisfy your wants apart from His will ultimately leads not to delight but to destruction.

We are tempted with **self-protection**. We are tempted to question God's promises and manipulate His promises. We are tempted to question His plans for us, to doubt His love for us, and to complain to Him about the circumstances of our lives. Just as Jesus did, we are to rest in the shelter of the Father's unshakeable security.

We are tempted with **self-exaltation**. We are tempted to assert ourselves in the world while we rob God of His worship. Instead of simple, humble obedience to God in this world, in our pride we seek to attain what we want in the way we want to do it. Pride is the root of all rebellion. Jesus knows, as we all must learn, that the supreme duty of everyone and everything is to worship God. "Everyone who humbles himself before God will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

The temptations Matthew records in this chapter are directly relevant to the battles we face every day. Self-gratification, self-protection and self-exaltation are always trying to allure us. But there is hope! God has given us His Spirit who led Jesus not only into the wilderness but through the wilderness unscathed. The same Spirit is alive in you. **You cannot** triumph over temptation, but **Christ can**. There is always a way of escape and it is Christ. Therefore, live in Him until one day He will reign over all as our sovereign King!

Adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition" by David Platt (used in the Salem Women's Bible study)



The Pugh family

Venedocia Area Events



Ice Cream Social June 14



June 15 Austin Kimmit High School graduation party



The Mullenhour family



June 15 Eric and Jenny Pugh held open house after rebuilding their home from their house fire



June 22 Spencerville Summerfest Parade



June 22 Spencerville Summerfest Parade vehicle

Gymanfa Ganu September 1

Mark your calendar for Sunday September 1st for our annual **Gymanfa (Welsh Festival of Song)**.

This marks Salem's 104th year of honoring our Welsh heritage.

Our director this year is Christopher Uhl, who is originally from Van Wert and has been with us in the past. This year he is joining with Paul Hoverman, also of Van Wert to put together a choir of 16-20 voices to entertain us for special music. This should be a real treat.

Anyone interested in singing with this group should contact Paul at 419-513-0123. Practices are being planned for August.

Our organist for the evening will be Connie Lloyd O'Neill and on the piano will be David VanTilburg.

Looking forward to a great evening of singing, meeting old friends, making new friends and of course eating great food. Hope you will join us!

-Kathy McCollow, Salem Music Committee

Vacation Bible School is July 30 and 31st from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

Herman Wienken

Thank you everyone for your prayers, cards, food, gifts, visitations, Pastor Tom for his support, and the beautiful floral arrangement.

Many thanks and love from the Herman Wienken family. Nell Jean, Elizabeth and Toby, Dominic, and Keaton Adkins.

Linda Coil Howell

Thanks to all who helped with Linda (Coil) Howell's funeral. It was deeply appreciated.

From the Linda Howell family.

Evelyn Martz

Evelyn Martz's family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for her funeral and help with serving and providing dishes for the meal that followed.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$50,576.76
 Received to Date: \$52,970.33

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Serving our Country

Natalie Morgan Wilkins

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marian Morris

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

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Dorothea Plikerd

Roselawn Manor
420 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Bob Louth

15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

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)

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
10 Tuzz Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Dunlap	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	16 Ron Owens
18 Marjorie Eutsler	22 Dave Rees
24 Evan Pugh	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Strickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Evelyn Martz,
Wayne Gamble, Marjorie Fronefield, & Bob
Bolton

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	24 Bill & Ruth Evans
25 David & Nancy Jo Breese	27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Peggy Burnett
Billie Coalson (Agent Orange)
Jackie Coalson (COPD)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Amy Cunningham (fibromyalgia)
Jim Davis (cancer)
Mark Davis
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Aaron Francis (broken leg)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Tim Huster (cancer)

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 (surgery)
Marian Morris
Dorothea Plikerd
Terry Profit (chemotherapy)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhoades
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Deb & Steve Sheppard (health issues)
6 Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

July 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	<i>4th of July</i>	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	8	9	10	11 Camp Clay swim event Noon to 6	12	13
14 9:30 Worship. 10:45 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Trustee meeting 7:00 pm County Prayer meeting at Salem	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Session meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	29	30 VBS 9:30-11:30	31 VBS 9:30-11:30			

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
July 7	To be determined	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Lisa Lloyd
July 14	To be determined	Jeff & Kim Coil	Doris Evans
July 21	To be determined	Todd & Jayne Morris	Doris Evans
July 28	To be determined	Gwenda Blackmore	Doris Evans
Ushers	Jim & Danny Lloyd & Dave Rees	Greeter:	Bob McCollow

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



The backside of the Salem 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

July 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

4th Sunday after Pentecost – July 7

2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30
Gal. 6:1-16	Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 14

Amos 7:7-17	Psalm 82
Col. 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37

6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 21

Amos 8:1-12	Psalm 52
Col. 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42

7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 28

Hosea 1:2-10	Psalm 85
Col. 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13
