

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

If you love me, obey my commandments (John 14:15 NLT).

As I became a Christian, I was frustrated as to how I could possibly follow all those rules starting with the Ten Commandments and you know - the other ones that good church people do. Rules, rules, rules. I thought that being a Christian was hard as I couldn't be absolutely perfect in obeying all the rules. I later learned that God knew we couldn't keep them all. No one can keep them all, and Christ died to forgive us our sins, past, present and future to make us right with God if we seek repentance.

For instance, someone would ask me how their new trendy bright colored dress looked. Being polite in answering, I would not exactly speak the truth and would inwardly feel guilty. I didn't want to hurt the person with the truth. I would think about how Will Rogers once reflected, "Do you have friends, or do you tell people what you really think?"

On the other hand, I noticed that many in the church, knew very little of God's commands and teachings and did little to obey them. It's the same problem that reappeared in the New Testament over and over and throughout the ages. Paul wrote much about this in his epistles.

I soon realized that being a Christian, isn't just about rules, but it was about a loving relationship with God. When I sought to know more of God's commands, I realized that they don't weigh us down but, they actually lift us up and set us free from the captivity of sin. People measure love for others with their feelings. The love God desires isn't with feelings, but with obedience, and that obedience is for our own good.

As I matured in my faith, I realized that God's commands gave us guidance and the power to joyfully overcome our greatest tests in this world. That's why God wanted obedience; it was for our own good. Obedience isn't hard, but obedience is the best way. Obedience to God's commands keeps us in the narrow way for our own good. We also feel so much closer to God as we obey Him.

Pastor Tom

My Call

I walk a path, from God the call,
To stand up "straight," to stand up tall.
Unworthy am I to be His man,
To bring His Word to all I can??!

My hands were covered with sins for sure,
What load of weight, what curse to endure!
An infinite God, a finite man,
A stench to Him, how could I stand?

He called my heart then cleansed it so,
The price He paid - for blood must flow!
The Son on high, a King made flesh.
His death for man so He could bless!

A God, a man, one in the same,
Through death was death that He did tame.
What cord of death could hold Him down,
and keep from Him His Godly crown?

The Father, the Son, they knew it all,
the price to pay for our great fall.
The work He did, His blood would flow,
SO pure was He, it made us glow!

So now I stand and heed His call
to be His servant and speak to all,
to tell the truth that washes stain,
His love for us does ever rain!

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Clinton Herring © 2018

"The Sermon on the Mount" Matthew Chapters 5-7

As you read Matthew's Gospel chapters 5-7, also known as "The Sermon on the Mount", know that you are reading the words of Jesus who was and is the greatest preacher who ever lived.

Jesus begins by calling attention to the sins of God's people. However, when you read His sermon, you

must not walk away thinking, "I must turn the other cheek, love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me" in order to be accepted by God. In the same way, don't think "I must follow the Golden Rule perfectly" to be accepted by God.

We aren't accepted by God because of anything *we do*. We are accepted by God completely and totally because of a perfect Savior who has died a bloody death in our place and who has risen again in victory. Yes, we love our enemies and those who persecute us and we follow the Golden Rule. But we do these things, not to *earn* His acceptance, but *because* we have been accepted by God and we want to glorify Him in everything we do.

Jesus condemned the righteous attitudes of the Scribes and Pharisees (Jewish leaders of the time). What Jesus called for was not righteousness by human effort to show everyone how good we look, but an inner righteousness that shows how gracious and powerful God is.

To be "born again" is to be given a new heart by God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit - not us. This is what the remainder of Jesus' sermon is all about...

1) Exceeding righteousness must be evident in our **attitudes**. In chapter 5:21-48 Jesus says "*You have heard it said...but I tell you...*" Jesus explains what God really meant in giving us the 10 Commandments. The question we must ask is, "do we see those new attitudes in our lives?" "Is there genuine love, purity, integrity and holiness?"

2) Jesus said our exceeding righteousness should be evident in our **desires**. In chapter 6:1-18 Jesus refers to the behaviors of giving, prayer and fasting. He says we must do them in the right way. Jesus says yes, we give, pray and fast but we are to do them in a way as to not attract attention. We struggle with wanting man's approval but our ultimate desire should be God's recognition, regardless of what man says.

3) Evidence of exceeding righteousness concerns **new relationships**. In chapters 7:1-5 Jesus warns "do not judge so that you might not be judged." He is not telling us to overlook sin in one another, but consider your own sin before pointing out sin in others. And even when we do point out another's sin, it should be done with love, grace and humility. The bottom line is this: There should be something different about the lives of those who call themselves Jesus' disciples. Life in the kingdom will look different from life in the world. This is the exceeding righteousness Jesus speaks about. So

do we see this difference in our lives? What about our churches?

Like every good preacher, Jesus puts us on the spot and calls us to respond. In chapter 7:13-14, Jesus says, "*Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.*" You are either on the narrow road that leads to eternal life or the broad road that leads to eternal destruction and death.

Jesus says the fruit is evident. In verses 15-23, He says one tree bears good fruit and one tree bears bad fruit. Either you have repented of you sins and Christ has changed your heart and you are producing love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23); or you are still trusting in yourself and rejecting Christ. Those in the latter category bring forth the works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21).

The consequences are eternal. Jesus says the storm is coming. In verses 24-27, when the storm hits, one house will stand upon the Rock and one will crash in on itself. Jesus reminds us, it doesn't matter how well we've fixed up our house and how other's view it, if it's not founded upon the Rock, it's fall will be stunning!

Do you have a new heart? If not, God's judgment stands over you. The good news is, you can withstand the judgment of God as long as you are in Christ who has already been judged (Rom 8:3). Place yourself totally and completely in Him. Don't rest in yourself, rest wholly in the Savior. That is the Gospel!

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

Local Sights



Kathy and Bob McCollow with granddaughter



David Breese with granddaughter



Sandy and Kim "Time for Children" skit



Newlyweds, Morgan and Tyler McConnell



Music Committee having organ tuned for Gymanfa Ganu



Jake Wilder Special Music



Venedocia Lion Club officer installations

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$66,138.84
Received to Date: \$67,094.74

teach private voice and piano instruction as well as accompanying many area high school choirs.

DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER UHL is organist-choirmaster of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy, New York, and an English and music teacher at Hoosac School, Hoosick, New York, where he will direct the 132nd annual performance of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Pageant. He continues as Music Director and Conductor of Musica Sacra Choir and Chamber Orchestra, Mobile Alabama, which he founded thirty-two years ago, and he is the former Music Director and Organist of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, also in Mobile. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, Mr. Uhl did further study with Gerre Hancock at Saint Thomas Church in New York City and with James Goettsche at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. His conducting career has taken him along the Central Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Pensacola as well as to Paris, Venice, Florence, and Rome. Mr. Uhl is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Uhl of Van Wert and a 1978 graduate of Van Wert High School, and he served as organist of First Presbyterian Church during his senior year. Early and important early musical teachers and mentors from Van Wert were Rosalie Milligan, his first piano teacher; Gloria Wendel, organist of First Methodist Church; Ann Oetzel, former organist and choir director of First Presbyterian Church; and Larry Schaufelberger, former choral director at Van Wert High School.



CHOIR This year, Christopher is joining with **PAUL HOVERMAN**, also of Van Wert to put together a choir of 16-20 voices to entertain us for special music.



ORGANIST | CONNIE O'NEILL, grew up here at Salem Church and is the daughter of the late Haydn and Marvel Lloyd. As an accomplished organist and pianist, she has performed at previous Gymanfi. Connie lives in New Bremen with her husband, Kevin. She teaches piano lessons and enjoys her grandchildren.

PIANIST | DAVID VANTILBURG holds a Masters Degree in Piano Performance from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Huntington College in Indiana. His work in piano includes studies with Bernard Lehman, Genita Speicher, Dr. Elizabeth Cobb, Dr. Walter Baker and Jerome Rose. David's work in voice includes studies with Bonnie Stephan, Warren Allen and Dr. Barbara Lockard-Zimmerman. David served as First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert's Chancel Choir director for many years and continues to be their substitute organist. He retired as choral director from Celina City Schools after 28 years. He continues to





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

Roselawn Manor
418 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

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Micah Linger

Grandson of Doris Evans
(U.S. Marine Corps)

Birthdays

1 Elizabeth Adkins	1 Kim Ebel
3 Pete McCollow	4 Claudia LeValley
4 Katie McClure	11 Landon Price
12 Jackson Dunlap	18 Jayne Morris
18 Morgan Pugh	20 Megan Jones
23 April Ellerbrock	25 Darlene Jones
26 Cindy Davis	26 Marian Morris
27 Brian Ellerbrock	27 Lisa Lloyd
29 Stephanie Beck	30 Jack Blackmore

Anniversaries

8 Doris & Paul Price	11 Doug & Jan Jones
15 Bob & Denise Pugh	28 Eric & Jen Pugh

Condolences

Condolences to the family of **Bob Hundley**.

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Peggy Burnett (cancer)
Billie Coalson (Agent Orange)
Jackie Coalson (COPD)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
Jim Davis
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Tim Huster (cancer)
Connie Johnson (cancer)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth (heart problems)
Bob Louth, Jr (prostate health)
LuAnn (family issues)
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 Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Deb & Steve Shepard (health issues)
Bruce Taylor (need liver transplant)
Martha Jean Evans Vasquez
Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
6 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

September 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship 4-6 Light meal 7:00 Gymanfa Ganu	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship Peace Offering 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship. Blessing of the Tractors 11:00 Pot Luck Dinner	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Session Meeting	23	24	25 Noon-Senior Luncheon	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	30	1 7 PM Women's Bible Study	2	3	4	5

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
September 1	Jake Wilder	Bob & Denise Pugh	To Be Advised
September 8	To Be Advised	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	To Be Advised
September 15	To Be Advised	Bill & Ruth Evans	Morgan & Tyler McConnel
September 22	To Be Advised	Eric & Jenny Pugh	Morgan & Tyler McConnel
September 29	To Be Advised	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Morgan & Tyler McConnel
Ushers	Rex & Lisa Lloyd family	Greeter:	Dave Rees

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



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

September 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
12th Sunday after Pentecost – September 1	
Jer. 2:4-13	Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Heb. 13:1-8,15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
13th Sunday after Pentecost – September 8	
Jer. 18:1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philem. 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
14th Sunday after Pentecost – September 15	
Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalm 14
1 Tim. 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 22	
Jer. 8:18-9:1	Psalm 79:1-9
1 Tim. 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 29	
Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Tim. 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31