

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 22 Issue 1

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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).

As we travel into a new year, let us take an appraisal of what really divinely satisfies us. Some of us are feeling spiritually dry from the religion that we are experiencing rather than the alive, invigorating, and fulfilling relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



Religion is a self-effort of trying to earn your way into heaven. It is "works" with hopes of the reward of getting into heaven. Unfortunately, it results only in apathy, failure, chronic guilt, bitterness, burn-out, and eternal separation from God. Has that been you?

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." God's plan of your having a relationship with Him involved Jesus on the cross, paying the price for our sins and wrongdoings. You need to put all your trust and faith in Jesus rather than any religion or in the means of being made right with God by your efforts.

Ask Jesus to be the captain of your life; ask the Holy Spirit to help you turn away from your sins. Then accept His free gift of salvation and eternal life and receive the joy of having a right love relationship with God.

A joy-filled personal relationship is when you trust fully in Jesus and then live to please Him. You confess your

sins, repent, and daily yield yourself to Him. The Holy Spirit does God's work in and through us, and the Holy Spirit controls and directs our lives. The result is the Galatians 5:22-23 Fruit of the Spirit of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

The hymn, "In the Garden," summarizes this relationship alone with God. "*And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.*"

In the opening scripture about water, at the well, Jesus met a despised and rejected Samaritan woman with a "reputation." He gave her God's unconditional love. Afterward, she wanted to tell everyone that she met the Messiah. Jesus gave us the same mission to tell others; in doing so, you get the same living water and inner joy she did. It is the mission of all true Christians. Jesus ends His discussion with the woman in John 4:36:

The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

Why not talk to God about Jesus, and once you accept Him, tell the world about this joyful offer of living water!

Pastor Tom Emery

Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing—
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be—
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Unknown Author

The Book of Philippians 4:4-17

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" 4:4-7 NIV.

Paul talks about **Joy** again in the book of Philippians. It's that important! So, in what can be a bleak time in the midst of winter, let's rediscover how we can maintain our joy...



The need: Paul again talks to the Philippians about a common Christian struggle is maintaining a **joyful heart**. George Mueller says, "The first great and primary business...every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord." We don't always wake up ready to sing. When you read Christian biographies and even the Psalms of David, you'll actually be encouraged that some of our greatest heroes wrestled through seasons of dryness, despair and discouragement.

Causes: Many things can rob us of Joy. One of them is mentioned in verse 6 - anxiety! But doubt, loss of a loved one, work, illness, relational difficulties, and numerous other problems can cause Christians to lose their song.

The solution: Notice what Paul says about rejoicing. He doesn't say, "Rejoice when your circumstances are going well." He says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Joy comes from our **relationship with Jesus**, not our circumstances. Paul is writing from prison. Some would call it a dungeon. But where does his **Joy** come from? It comes from the Lord Jesus Christ!

Most people think you get **Joy** when you get what you desire. But real **Joy** comes when you realize what you deserve. The realization of what you **deserve**

(**judgment**) and what you've **received** instead (**salvation**) should lead you to great **Joy**. It's not about getting what you want; it's about **being grateful** for all that you have in Christ Jesus.

Remember Pharrell William's catchy song "Happy"? It made people clap and sing along and dance all over the world. It first appeared in the movie "Despicable Me 2". Interestingly, it plays when little Lucy gives the former supervillain Gru a kiss. When this reformed villain finds love, it makes him happy. That sounds like the Gospel! When formerly despicable characters like us are seized and changed by the love of Jesus, it should make us happy. In Philippians, the happiest man in Rome is in jail! What makes him rejoice? The **good news** of Christ rescuing him! When we consider what we deserve because of our despicable sin and what we have because of the redeeming love of God through Christ, that realization should give rise to **Joy**. **Rejoice in the Lord** - in the Savior and Lord, who loves to redeem and forgive despicable people!

Instruction: So, when and how long should we rejoice in the Lord? Paul tells us: "**always**." Certainly, there will be occasions when we're grieved and filled with sorrow, but even in those time, the Christian can say with Paul, "as grieving yet always rejoicing." (2 Cor 6:10). Paul doesn't teach that we should always be skipping around, totally detached from the real world. He teaches that even in hard times, the Christian can drink deeply from the well of salvation that produces **Joy** in the midst of struggle. You should always sing with **Joy** because of the Savior, even in times when you have to sing with tears pouring down your face.

Effect: What would happen if you and others in our church lived lives of **constant rejoicing**? Think of all the sins that are overcome by a heart that rejoices in the Lord always. This would **conquer sins** like anger, envy, gossip, discontentment, arrogance, stinginess, and complaining. These sins grow out of a heart that's not finding **Joy** in Christ. When we rejoice in the Lord while we serve the Lord, **we honor Him**. Our attitudes, as we serve the Lord, matter to Him. So, let's regularly reflect on how graciously the Lord has treated us, and may that lead us to live a life of **Joy!**

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

Pastor Tom's Christmas Morning Quiche

9" unbaked pie crust
1 C chopped broccoli
2 Tb butter
1 minced onion

1 tsp minced garlic
 1 1/2 C chopped cooked meat (ham/sausage/bacon)
 1 1/2 C shredded Swiss cheese
 1 C evaporated milk
 4 eggs, beaten
 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
 1 tsp paprika

Preheat oven to 350°F.
 Press pie crust into a 9" pie plate and prebake. Set aside.
 Cook broccoli. Set aside.
 Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic in melted butter until slightly translucent (about 5 min.).
 Stir meat, broccoli into the onion mixture and transfer to pie crust.
 Beat cheese, milk, eggs and pepper together in a bowl; pour over meat mixture. Sprinkle paprika over entire quiche.
 Bake in preheated oven until a fork inserted into the center of the quiche comes out clean (about 30-45 min.).

(This can also be made crust-less by buttering a pie pan and pouring mixture into pan. Bake as above).

Salem News

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the recognition you gave me on December 1st. Being your organist for the past several years gave me much joy. The organ is such a beautiful instrument and playing it has made for many worshipful times. I plan to be available for special services or a fill in here or there. Again, thank you for allowing me to be your organist and may God's forever blessings be with all of you. -LaDonna Allenbaugh

Kayla (Owens) Mumford and her husband welcomed Hailey Diana Mumford on December 3rd, 2019. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. She's home with her sister Olivia. Her Great Grandmother is lone Owens and grandfather is Don Owens.

The flower chart is up for the new 2020 year. Please help fill in the dates.

The boxes with offering envelopes can be found in the vestibule. Please sign your name beside the box number you are taking for the year 2020.

We want to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and good wishes for our 70th wedding anniversary. WE are so blessed to be a part of this caring and thoughtful church family. -Dave and Jean Owens

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$101,153.08
 Received to Date: \$117,452.52

Salem Pictures



Salem Manger Scene in front of the church



December 4 – Senior Luncheon



December 8 – Cassy & Emmanuel Yaboah-Mantey reception

Salem Christmas Events



December 15 – Children's Service



December 15 – Lions Club Santa visit with the Dearing family



December 15 – Children's Service self-made movie about doing good deeds giving Jesus the glory



December 15 – Nursing home caroling to Marjorie Rhoades and Marian Morris



December 15 Children's Service



December 15 – Manse Party



December 22 Julie Foust Richard and December 24 Madison & Evan Pugh Special Music



December 24 – Balcony bells playing



Christmas Eve Ceremony with Communion table



December 22 – Time with Children prayers and McKenna Kimmet speaking of the Advent Candle



Christmas Eve singing "Silent Night"



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
418 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

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

Micah Linger

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Birthdays

2 Chris Beck	3 Emily Blackmore
5 Karen Pugh	6 Jim Lloyd
7 Nell Jean Wienken	7 Loretta Williams
9 Megan Smith	10 Dominic Adkins
11 Chelsey Lloyd	11 Ashlyn Price
12 Christina Emery	12 George Siler
16 Rob Breese	16 Liz Hobbs
28 Scott Fair	30 Doris Price
30 John Smith	31 Carrie Jones

Condolences

No Condolences this month.

Prayer Concerns

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Warren (Punkin) Burnett
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
John Davis (stroke)
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Catie Emery (nightmares)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Tim Huster (cancer)
Connie Johnson (cancer)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Dale Kieszka (leg operation)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Gloria Leiter
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth (heart problems)
Bob Louth, Jr (prostate health)
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Marian Morris
Joan Poling
Larry Poling (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Terry Profit (chemotherapy)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Sherry Silar (cancer)
Bruce Taylor (had a liver transplant)
Martha Jean Evans Vasquez
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

January 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship with guest Speaker Glenn Hux No Sunday School	6	7 7 pm Women's Bible Study	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class *Financial reports due to auditors* 5:00 Trustee Meeting	13	14 7 pm Women's Bible Study	15 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship (Install officers) Distribute reports to the congregation 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class 12:30 Session Retreat	20	21 7 pm Women's Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship –Congregational Meeting to follow service 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class – makeup class	27	28 7 pm Women's Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Confirmation Class – makeup class	30	31	

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
January 5	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Gloria Leiter	Becky Reichard
January 12	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	TBD	Becky Reichard
January 19	Jeff & Kim Coil	TBD	Dave VanTilburg
January 26	Todd & Jayne Morris	TBD	Diane Morris
Ushers	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Greeter:	Marylin Foust

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



December 22 - Manger Scene explained during the Time for Children

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/text: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell/text: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

January 2020 REVISÉ COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A	
2nd Sunday of Christmas – January 5	
Jer. 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20
Eph. 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
Baptism of the Lord – January 12	
Isa. 42:1-9	Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43	Matt. 3:13-17
2nd Sunday after Epiphany – January 19	
Isa. 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11
1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
3rd Sunday after Epiphany – January 26	
Isa. 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4:12-23