

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6 NASB).*

When I turn the news on and see the daily protests, violence, and malice about the election, I have to pray for this world and those who do not know Christ. Our social fabric seems to be unraveling. Our once stable Christian morality is being discarded. Hatred, division, insults, and pointing the finger is common. Yet within the church, a few great but fallen leaders have made a mockery of their faith with their scandals. Even with the coronavirus that should bring unity to us, there is strife and fear and unsettledness.

When we sin, we think that we are free and unbound. I see this in young people dabbling and deluding themselves into thinking themselves free with drugs and drink, but the Bible brings to our attention that we are enchained.

The invisible chains of this world are controlled by the flesh and the devil. Deluded with drugs, alcohol, food, money, greed, power obsession, anger, fear, getting more things, and other addictions, our lives then add up to nothing worth eternal purpose. We eventually reach the end of our lives missing the purpose of our lives. Many will die in sin and only to be eternally separated from the life that is more than abundant in the joy of knowing God and His Son firsthand. In essence, many are enslaved and didn't know it.

At the cross, our chains were cut. We were set free to be all that God created us to be and to experience the purpose for which we were created. We were created to be part of God's Kingdom and to spend eternity with God and not eternal damnation as punishment for our sins. Jesus paid the price for our sins if we repent and turn to Him. We can use God's Spirit to set others free by the power found in the Words of the Gospel. While Jesus said that "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin" (John 8:34 NLT); Jesus also tells us that if you abide in His Words becoming a true disciple, "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

What a free offer that Jesus makes to us! "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! <sup>38</sup> Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart'" (John

7:37-8). Why not turn to Him today? Why not seek true joy in this world by seeking the deep love of God found in Jesus?

*Pastor Tom Emery*



## You Raise Me Up

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then I am here, sitting in the silence  
Until you come and sit awhile with me

You raise me up till I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

There is no life - no life without it's hunger  
Each precious heart beats so imperfectly  
But when you come and I am filled with wonder  
Sometimes, I think I see eternity

You raise me up till I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

You raise me up so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

You raise me up till I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up (raise me up) to walk on stormy seas  
(stormy seas)  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders

You raise me up to more than I can be (I can be)  
You raise me up to more than I can be

As Sung by "[Only Boys Aloud](#)" Welsh Choir  
\*The First and Original Version\* by [Secret Garden](#)

### Paul Harvey's 'If I Were the Devil'



*It is really amazing to realize over 47 years ago how accurately the radio personality, Paul Harvey, "prophesied" the future spiritual condition of the United States. Many of his statements were considered ridiculously outlandish at that time in history. Yet, we find ourselves today in the coming election in the next thirty days...*

**If I were the devil ...** If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

'To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

'And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

'If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

'Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion and deity science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil, I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

'If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

Paul Harvey, good day."

#### Comments:

*It is my hope that you will join with me praying daily for a revival in our lives, our churches, Venedocia, our communities and our nations. We must decide to be different, Christ-focused. What offends Christ, should offend us. What breaks His heart, should break ours. What He loves, we should love. The world desperately needs Jesus, and we know He is the answer to the challenges in our families, our nation and our world. May God send His Holy Spirit to revive each of us first so that we will be effective instruments for Him in this world, our temporary home. Jesus commands each of us to "Go." Go in His name and the power of the Holy Spirit and change our world. So, we must go, and go quickly. The clock of eternity is ticking, and the midnight hour is rapidly approaching. Jesus, our King and Lord, is preparing to return, and we must make ourselves ready and "go" make disciples in this world where we are living. God is good, All the time.*

### Psalm 138 - God Is to Be Worshipped

In the last two verses of Psalm 138, we find the heart of the true believer, the one who can worship God even in times of personal uncertainty. Note that David says he "walks in the midst of trouble." That's different than being in trouble, or being troubled. It is an ongoing process of living through the reality of trouble - not letting trouble derail or wreck one's life. Two things

happen for the one who walks in the midst of trouble; protection and perfection.

The Lord continues to protect us. David spent most of his life in trouble. Before he is king, he is running from Saul, as king he is warring with his neighbors, and toward the end of his reign his house (family) rises up in rebellion against him. Yet David said in Psalm 23, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me." David was confident of God's protection, just as David's sheep had been "confident" of David's protection when he was their shepherd in the Judean hills. Does that mean we will never be injured? Apparently not, for David says God will "revive" him when needed. But it does mean that God will proactively stretch out His hand on our behalf. He will protect us.

The Lord continues to perfect us. Psalm 138:8 is a beautiful conclusion for the soul in trouble: "the Lord will perfect that which concern me." It's easy in the midst of trouble to lose sight of the big picture. Our perspective grows foggy, and we begin to wonder if God is still walking with us in the midst of our troublesome days. Here is the promise that He is. Day by day, God is perfecting us. That perfection is happening in the "good" days as well as the "bad" days. He is moving us toward perfection at every moment. Romans 8:29 says "For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers". Never have you had a friend like Jesus. Even on the days when life seems to you not to be worth living, your faithful Friend is protecting and perfecting you.



"Do not forsake the works of Your hands" (Psalm 138:8). David views himself in the hands of Almighty God. You are in the hands that created the universe - nail-scarred hands that hung on the cross to pay for

your redemption. These hands will one day welcome Christians to glory.

When we give up and give in, He reaches down with those hands and lifts us up and walks us through the difficulty as He has promised. Whatever you may be facing, whatever challenge you may be going through, God is able to do above and beyond all that you can ever ask, if you will just grab hold of His hands and let Him take charge.

Source: [When Your World Falls Apart](#) by Dr. David Jeremiah (Turning Point). Used by the Women's Bible Study material for September.

### What God says about Euthanasia and Suicide

Euthanasia, sometimes called "mercy killing," can be a difficult issue. On one hand, we do not want to take a person's life into our own hands and end it prematurely. On the other hand, we do not want to prolong the *process* of dying more than necessary—that is, we want to preserve life, but not prolong death. At what point do we simply allow a person to die and take no further action to extend his or her life?

A related issue is that of assisted suicide. Essentially, a person seeking assisted suicide is seeking to euthanize himself, with the aid of another person to ensure that death is quick and painless. The person assisting the suicide facilitates death by making preparations and furnishing the needed equipment; but the person seeking death is the one who actually initiates the process. By taking a "hands-off" approach to the death itself, the facilitator seeks to avoid charges of murder. Proponents of assisted suicide try for a positive spin by using terms like "death with dignity." But "death with dignity" is still death, "assisted suicide" is still suicide, and suicide is wrong.

We live in what is sometimes described as a "culture of death." Abortion on demand has been practiced for decades. Now some are seriously proposing infanticide. And euthanasia is promoted as a viable means of solving various social and financial problems. This focus on death as an answer to the world's problems is a total reversal of the Biblical model. Death is an enemy ([1 Corinthians 15:26](#)). Life is a sacred gift from God ([Genesis 2:7](#)). When given the choice between life and death, God told Israel to "choose life" ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)). Euthanasia spurns the gift and embraces the curse.

The overriding truth that God is sovereign drives us to the conclusion that euthanasia and assisted suicide are wrong. We know that physical death is inevitable for us mortals ([Psalm 89:48](#); [Hebrews 9:27](#)). However, God

alone is sovereign over when and how a person's death occurs. Job testifies in [Job 30:23](#), "I know you will bring me down to death, to the place appointed for all the living." [Ecclesiastes 8:8](#) declares, "No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death." God has the final say over death (see [1 Corinthians 15:26](#), [54-56](#); [Hebrews 2:9](#), [14-15](#); [Revelation 21:4](#)). Euthanasia and assisted suicide are man's attempts to usurp that authority from God.



Death is a natural occurrence. Sometimes God allows a person to suffer for a long time before death occurs; other times, a person's suffering is cut short. No one enjoys suffering, but that does not make it right to determine that a person should die. Often, God's purposes are made known through suffering. "When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other" ([Ecclesiastes 7:14](#)). [Romans 5:3](#) teaches that tribulations bring about perseverance. God cares about those who cry out for death and wish to end their suffering. God gives purpose in life even to the end. Only God knows what is best, and His timing, even in the matter of one's death, is perfect.

We should never seek to prematurely end a life, but neither must we go to extraordinary means to preserve a life. To actively hasten death is wrong; to passively withhold treatment can also be wrong; but to allow death to occur naturally in a terminally ill person is not necessarily wrong. Anyone facing this issue should pray to God for wisdom ([James 1:5](#)). And we should all remember the words of former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, who warned that the practice of medicine "cannot be both our healer and our killer." \*

**Source:** "What Does the Bible Say about Euthanasia / Assisted Suicide?" **GotQuestions.**

\* **KOOP, The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor** by C. Everett Koop, M.D., Random House, 1991

## Salem Facebook and FM Radio

During the coronavirus outbreak, our Facebook pages are: "**Salem Presbyterian Church Venedocia**" for our Facebook Live Sunday Service posting, and the Group Page is "**Salem United Presbyterian Church**" for spiritual church wide discussions. Our short-range FM station is **FM 87.9** for the Venedocia-area during service times. Our SalemChurch.cc website provides recent service and news information such as the newsletter and the bulletin.

## Church Financial Update

Before the pandemic hit Salem Church, we were doing financially better than last year at this time. With church services and events like the Gymanfa Ganu and meal events being restricted by the State of Ohio, we need more than ever for our church family to continue their giving during this trying time. Church offerings should be mailed to the church at:

**Salem United Presbyterian Church**  
**PO Box 678**  
**Venedocia, Ohio 45894**

Needed to Date:	\$77,562.36
Received to Date:	\$84,994.74

## Christmas Shoe Boxes

Plan to pack a shoe box this year and be part of an amazing project that brings hope and joy to children in over 100 countries. Not only do they receive fun and useful items, but they also hear the Gospel message. In the past 10 years 8.9 million children reported making decisions for Christ. For the first time this year boxes are going to the Pacific Islands in the hope of reaching half a million children. In one year alone over 1,000 churches have been started as a direct result of the Shoe Boxes. Boxes and brochures are available in the Prayer room with instructions for packing a box. Collection day is Sunday, November 22, 2020.

## Salem Sights





This year, we were not able to hold the Gymanfa nor the social meal that we have in the past. Instead, we loaded the Sunday Service with Welsh songs and a social time afterwards sharing historical photos and memories. We decided to continue this practice of sharing for the next years. Bring photos and memories to share next year!



Avery Zielke relaxing at the Fair



Dominic Adkins Eagle Scout Awards - The Price and Dunlap families at the Van Wert Fair



Grant Zielke with Fair award



Keaton Adkins with Fair award



Chance Moiser with Van Wert Fair Award



September 20 –The youth in the parking lot checking out the tractors at 2020 Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday and the Blessings of the Harvest event.



# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

## **Bartie Jones**

407 Stony Ridge Dr.  
Sandusky, OH 44870-5468

## **Marjorie Rhoades**

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

## **Marian Morris**

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

## **Ione Owens**

Van Wert Manor  
160 Fox Road  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **At College**

**Evan Pugh** – University of Northwestern Ohio

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Madison Pugh** – USCGA | 15 Mohegan Ave.  
8785 Chase Hall | New London, CT 06320

## **Condolences**

Condolences to the families of Jack Hardesty, Kay Patrick and Vincent Clement.

## **Serving our Country**

### **Cory McCollow**

(U.S. Coast Guard)  
7225 Altura Place  
Oakland, CA 94605

### **Micah Linger**

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

### **Phoebe Eutsler** (Army)

### **Butch Eutsler**

(National Guards)

**Dillon Ellerbrock** (Marines)  
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

**Gyer Blackmore** (Army)  
Grandson of Gwenda B.

## **Birthdays**

2 Corey Mullenhour	8 Bob McCollow
13 David Breese	13 Carter Dunlap
13 Kayla Owen/Mumford	14 Jason Kimmet
25 Josh Hobbs	28 Keaton Adkins
29 Nancy Swygart	30 Jeff Coil

## **Anniversaries**

2 Kevin & Heather Matthews  
7 Jason & Sarah Kimmet  
21 Bob & Kathy McCollow

## **Prayer Concerns**

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)  
Barry Coil (stroke)  
Kathy Comer  
Cathy Donnal (health issues)  
Catie Emery (nightmares)  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Jerry Holscher  
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)  
Carson Kundert  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
LuAnn (family issues)  
John Lloyd  
Donald Martin

Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Marian Morris  
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)  
Ione Owens  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Mary Rigdon  
David Ringwald (healing from burns)  
Roselawn Manor-all residents  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)  
Mary Strayer (cancer)  
Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)  
Raymond Young

# October 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:30 Worship <b>Communion</b> Salvation Army donation 10:45 Sunday School	5	<b>6</b>	7	8	9	10
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
<b>11</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	12	<b>13</b>	14	15	16	17
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
<b>18</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Session Meeting Nominating & Budget	19	<b>20</b>	21	22	23	24
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
<b>25</b> 9:30 Worship Budget due 10:45 Sunday School	26	<b>27</b>	28	29	30	31
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
October 4	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Jean Owens	LaDonna Allenbaugh
October 11	Jeff & Kim Coil	Jean Owens	Becky Reichard
October 18	Todd & Jayne Morris	Jean Owens	Connie O'Neill
October 25	Gwenda Blackmore	Lisa Lloyd	Dave VanTilburg
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwenda Blackmore	<b>Greeter:</b>	Gwenda Blackmore

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



September 20 – Pastor Tom presenting at Salem’s front steps the Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday and the Blessings of the Harvest event

## *Sounds of Salem Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

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)

<b>October 2020  REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY  YEAR B</b>	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 4</b>	
Exod. 20:1-4,7-9,12-20	Psalm 19
Phil. 3:4b-14	Matt. 21:33-46
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 11</b>	
Exod. 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Phil. 4:1-9	Matt. 22:1-14
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 18</b>	
Exod. 33:12-23	Psalm 99
Thes. 1:1-10	Matt. 22:15-22
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 25</b>	
Deut. 34:1-12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Thes. 2:1-8	Matt. 22:34-46