

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 23 Issue 1

January 2021

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

What a year 2020 was with the Coronavirus, quarantines, facemasks, a disputed national election, riots, and a faltering global economy. Now that we can look back on the year, we can begin to put things into a Biblical perspective. While it was a time that seemed out of control, we need first to remember that we worship a God who can speak galaxies into existence. His power is unlimited. He tells us that even the needs of a common sparrow are within His loving providence. God is still in control. We can have happiness in all circumstances if we trust in Him.

Jesus tells us that we are in this world, but not of this world. When we obey His Words, we are truly following Him. We are to be His disciple and to lead others into discipleship. We are not to be distracted by the winds of change of man-created teachings and doctrines of the world for each generation. We are witnessing the tearing down the time-honored beliefs, traditions, statues, institutions, and the Constitution. But we are to hold firm to the truth of the Word of God because God is in control.

As Christians, we need to seek God even more during these times. For comfort, we need to hold onto the timeless promises of the Bible and rest assured how history will turn out by reviewing the Biblical prophecies and the Book of Revelation. The history we live in is actually "His Story" of how the world unfolds.

John tells us in John 8:31, "*Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, 'You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings.'*" Jesus tells us to follow Him, and He will lead us and those we disciple safely to our heavenly home.

We serve an all-powerful God who loves us enough to send His only Son to die for our sins, and He gives us His Word to read how history is unfolding. We can take comfort that the worst that can happen to those of faith is for us to die and go to heaven to spend a joy-filled eternity with God and our loved ones. We were made for heaven. Oh, what a sense of peace we can have. Why not tell others not to fear because of the great hope that they also can have during these times? Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery

The Afters – Live on Forever

Dark days are gonna go away
They won't have the final say
These bones were always gonna fade
'Cause we were made for another place
The moment of our final breath
When all our fears are put to rest
Every tear will disappear
Heaven is real



We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We are not where we belong
We have a hope we're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever

Breathing air we have never breathed
We'll see colors we've never seen
Every sound like a symphony
Rising up as the angels sing
The arms of grace are open wide
The face of love before our eyes
Where every tear will disappear
Heaven is real

We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We are not where we belong
We have a hope we're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever

Our hearts have been set in motion
For something more, for something more
Than we could ever imagine
There's so much more, there's so much more

[x2]

We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever
We are not where we belong
We have a hope we're gonna live on
Forever, forever, forever

[Link as sung by The Afters](#)

God Directs Those Who Are Sincere – The Wise Men

Epiphany - January 6th

“We saw the star in the east and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:2

Who were the Wise Men? They were astronomers who came from the east, probably from Persia. By the time they arrived, Jesus, Mary and Joseph were in a house. We find their story in Matthew 2:1-2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”



How did astronomers in Persia know about the Jewish Messiah in Jerusalem? I think the answer is that seven hundred years earlier, that region had been introduced to the idea of a Messiah by the Old Testament prophet Daniel. Daniel was taken to Babylon in captivity, and he taught the magi in the king's court. Through Daniel's influence, the Wise Men knew that a Messiah was coming, not just for the Jews but for the entire world. So, when the Wise Men saw the star in the east, they followed it, searching for the Messiah.

The Wise Men remind us that God directs those who sincerely search for Him. Contrast the Wise Men's

response to King Herod's response when he heard the Messiah had come. Matthew 2:3 says when Herod heard about this new king, "he was troubled." We know from history that Herod suffered from paranoia. Herod didn't want to give up his rule for anyone. When Herod sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem, he said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him" (v.8). Herod didn't want to worship the Messiah; he wanted to kill Him.

But notice how God protected His Son: After hearing the king, (the Wise Men) went on their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way (vv. 9-12).

Herod died in the darkness without finding Christ, but the Magi who came all the way from Persia were led to Jesus. Think about your own experience of how God led you out of spiritual darkness into the light of His Son. God probably sent a "star" to lead you to Christ. It might have been a godly parent or grandparent; perhaps it was a pastor or a Sunday school teacher. But when God saw a heart that sincerely wanted to know Him, He sent the light into your life to lead you to Christ. God gives direction to those who sincerely want to know Him.

When you see the wise men in a nativity scene, ask yourself: "Am I sincerely seeking to know Jesus so I may worship Him?" If so, He will give you light. Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

What can you do to seek Jesus sincerely and learn more about Him?

Pray: "God help me be like the Wise Men, who sincerely searched for the Messiah. Guide me as I read Your Word and search to know more about Jesus. In Jesus Name, Amen."

Adapted from: "Wise Men - God Directs Those Who Are Sincere." [Nativity Devotional](#) by Dr. Robert Jeffers used in the Salem Women's Bible Study

If You Want to Help Someone Change

They must first want to change.

If they do not want to change, it is the same thing as leading a horse to water. You can get the horse there, but you cannot make them drink.

The story below, which was written by an Unknown Monk, in 1100 A.D., reflects we can only change ourselves.

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I could not change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I could not change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation, and I could indeed have changed the world."

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$103,416.48
Received to 2020-12-20 \$112,849.17

The Sights of Salem



December 13 – Christmas Program actors in the church play

Salem Website, Facebook and FM Radio

During the coronavirus outbreak, our website is **SalemChurch.cc**. Our Facebook pages are: "**Salem Presbyterian Church Venedocia**" for our Facebook Live unedited service recorded using just a cell phone. Our Group Page is "**Salem United Presbyterian Church**" for private spiritual church wide discussions. Our two-mile short-range FM station is **FM 87.9** for the Venedocia-area during service times.



The Christmas Program Junior Bells

Church Financial Update

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we should hold gratitude in our hearts every moment of every day for all that we hold dear— because in the blink of an eye, anything could change.

Before the pandemic hit Salem Church, we were doing financially better than last year at this time. This year church services and events like the Gymanfa Ganu and meal events were cancelled and restricted by the State of Ohio, with that, we need more than ever for our church family to continue their giving during this trying time. We are behind in repairs and replacements, like the bell tower carillon and the office computer in our attempt to stretch-out our limited income. It is because of you that Salem can look confidently towards 2021. Although the path ahead may have been altered by 2020, because of you we know that the path remains of the witness to Christ of Salem Church and its church family.

Prayerfully consider making a donation. Church offerings should be mailed to the church at:



The Christmas Program reception in the Prayer Room. So many treats were made extra by Session that large quantities were delivered to all the local nursing homes to thank the staff for caring for our loved ones.



December 13 – Lion's Club Santa Event



December 20th - Sandy Skit about the Manger Scene



December 23 – Venedocia Street Lions Club Christmas lights with snowfall Salem Church Manger Scene



December 20 – Becky Reichard and Arlene Amstutz Special Music



Christmas Eve readings



December 20 – Richards family



December 24th Christmas Eve Service with Communion



December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 24 - Pete and Morgan McCollow expecting in February



December 24 – Brook and Jeff Coil with baby Rayna



December 27 – Guest speaker, Spencerville HS Athletic Director, John Zerbe with Sheila Collins and Dave VanTilburg Special Music

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the February newsletter. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

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

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main Street
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ione Owens

16398 State Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

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

SPC Eutsler, Phoebe

(Army)
CMR 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Sgt. Linger, Micah

(U.S. Marine Corps)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guards)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC
101st DSB
APO AE 09366

At College

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati graduated
in Archaeology, December 2020

Evan Pugh – University of Northwestern Ohio

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

Birthdays

2 Chris Beck	3 Emily Blackmore
5 Karen Pugh	6 Jim Lloyd
7 Nell Jean Wienken	7 Loretta Williams
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

Condolences to the families of Karen Lentz, Art Eversole, Dean Mollenkopf, Corky Hammons, Ken Davies, John Pavel, Gretta Waltz-Shaw, Billy Hughes, and Ron Bagley

Prayer Concerns

Katie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Rosemary Cooper
Asher Eberle
Marjorie Eutsler
Melissa (Summersett) Fallis (cancer)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Jerry Holscher
Marcia Hundley Hernandez
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John and Mary Ellen Lloyd
Donald Martin

David & Becky Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Byron Mohr
David Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Nursing Homes and all residents
Ione Owens
Joe Pavel
Marjorie Rhodes
Daune & Denise Schrieber
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Mary Strayer (cancer)
Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)
6 Curt Whetstone (cancer)
Raymond Young

January 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	4	5 7 pm Women's Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 1:00 Session Training class 5:00 Trustee meeting	11	12 7 pm Women's Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	18	19 7 pm Women's Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	25	26 7 pm Women's Bible Study	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
January 3	Rex & Lisa Lloyd		Connie O'Neill
January 10	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs		NA
January 17	Jeff & Kim Coil		NA
January 24	Todd & Jayne Morris		Becky Reichard
January 31	Gwenda Blackmore		Dave VanTilburg
Ushers	Marylin Foust	Greeter:	Marylin Foust

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



December 24th – Christmas Eve Service.

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc

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

**January 2021
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

2nd Sunday of Christmas – Jan 3

Jer. 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20
Eph. 1:3-14	John 1:1-18

Baptism of the Lord – Jan 10

Gen. 1:1-5	Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday after Epiphany – Jan 17

1 Sam. 3:1-20	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Cor. 6:12-20	John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday after Epiphany – Jan 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12
1 Cor. 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

4th Sunday after Epiphany – Jan 31

Deut. 18:15-20	Psalm 111
1 Cor. 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
