

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*"I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you (Hosea 10:12 NLT)."*

In the Bible, God often addresses those who had become lazy and disobedient in their service to the Lord. As this year's plowing season approaches, Scripture challenges us to grow and to change to be more spiritually profitable.

We know that unplowed ground will not let a crop grow. It is hard, preventing seeds from penetrating, germinating, and growing to maturity. So, it is when time to put in a garden, we get out the tiller and turn the soil so that seeds can penetrate to let their roots go down deep where they can find moisture. You can apply this agricultural analogy to spiritual things about what must be done by planting God's Word in your soul.

Remove the rocks, stumps, and weeds of bitterness, hatred, greed, and selfishness to plant something new and fruitful in your heart. Burn the old stumps and get help to remove extra heavy large rocks in your life. Pull out weeds by the roots. When is the last time you were really on your knees broken before the Lord? Have you reconciled and made amends to others? Do you show the Galatians 5:22-23 Fruits of the Spirit in your life of: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?"

Perhaps, you have put off plowing a particular piece of land because it is too difficult or too painful to deal with an issue in your life. Perhaps, you cannot envision the fruit and grain that can grow there, so you have never bothered. But God is the Great Vinedresser. If you break up the additional fallow ground in your life, he will extend and enlarge your fruitfulness and grant you a more abundant life.

Looking forward to a harvest is a wonderful time to rededicate the fallow tracts of land that make up your life and put them under cultivation for God. Now is the time to break up these unplowed acres and yield them to His growth. He calls you to do this for your reward.

*Pastor Tom Emery*



## Farms

Farms are the lifelong devotions that always pay off

It's looking out the dust-stained window to see the rising sun sifting through the drifting fog on the pond

It's starting work with the sun rising on your back and ending your day as the sun sets over the horizon

It's the 6 am breakfasts and 9 pm dinners

It's the long days on a worn tractor seat

The long dust cloud that stretches behind the tractors

The rustle of corn husks

The golden harvest of wheat

It's the racing of horses

The squealing of pigs

The moaning of cattle

The silent aching while fixing rusty barbed wire fences

The aging of wooden barns

The rusting of well-used trucks

It's the work that is never finished

The sigh of relief after a long, restless day

The peaceful inhale of dirt, sweat and home sweet home

It's the elbow grease that will always be rewarded in the end

Farms are the generations that will continue to step up and take responsibility

Farms are the passion that shows through endless hard work

Farms are the lifelong devotions that always pay off

Farms

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### Happy Are the Harnessed

The Beatitude about meekness was taken by Jesus from the words of Psalm 37. Verses 9 and 34 speak to waiting on the Lord. That is perhaps the central idea behind meekness in the **Old Testament**. The meek person is the one who obediently accepts God's guidance, receives what God sends his way and is compliant to the will of God. David, in Psalm 37, says this way of life leads to blessing, expressed in Old Testament terms as inheriting the Promised Land.

Psalm 37 is a psalm I turn to in times of discouragement. Verses 1-8 mention several ways not to worry: "Do not fret...", "Trust in the Lord...", "Delight...in the Lord...", "Commit your way to the Lord...", "Rest in the Lord...". The way not to worry is to rest, trust, commit and delight in the Lord. That is a definition of meekness. It is an active decision to wait, rest, trust, and to leave matters in God's hands. Meekness is accepting God's will in your life with complete confidence that it is best.

One example in the Old Testament is Job. He lost everything, children, livestock, and property. And even his wife criticized him mercilessly. Job wondered during all those trials why it was happening, yet he was able to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). He cried out, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).

In the Old Testament, meekness meant to live under the control of God, to be God-controlled. In the **New Testament**, the word refers more to self-control. After all, being meek is one of the results of being under the control of the Holy Spirit ("gentleness" in the NKJV, Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus defined Himself as "gentle [meek] and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29); and in doing so, He personified a perfect definition of New

Testament meekness: power under control. One can feel righteous indignation - righteous anger – in the right situation, as Jesus did. But a meek person never flies off the handle, out of control with his anger in a self-centered way. A meek person acts with power under control. Meekness never gets angry at what happens to itself. It only gets angry at what happens to others. Jesus never reacted in anger when He was personally abused at His trial and crucifixion. But unrighteousness in the temple or abuse of others aroused His righteous anger. Jesus was meek, not weak.



In our lives today, we find there are four areas where meekness is a critical quality. **We need meekness to receive God's Word.** Only by submitting ourselves to the Spirit of God will the Word of God make sense to our human minds. And the power to submit in that way is the power of meekness, the power to recognize that God's Word and wisdom are better than our own.

**We need meekness to restore fallen Christians.** Great power under control is needed to minister to a fallen Christian soldier – the power not to be judgmental and the power not to fall into the same failure ourselves. Far too often we act toward those who have sinned as though we have never fallen ourselves. We talk about them on the "prayer chain". And even if they are restored to fellowship, we find it hard to treat them as forgiven. That is not meekness. Meekness acknowledges that but for the grace of God, I might have been in their shoes.

**We need meekness to reach others with the Gospel.** First Peter 3:15 says, "Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." We would win more people to Christ if we witnessed to them with meekness.

**We need meekness to remain unified in our churches.** Maintaining unity requires "endeavoring." That is, it requires work. Such unity only happens supernaturally – that is with meekness. Lowliness and gentleness allow people to yield to a greater good than their own self-interests.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) This refers to the blessings of all the promises of God – which include a new heaven and new earth. The meek are not weak. They are happy (blessed) now and will be happy for eternity.

Adapted from: "Happy Are the Harnessed" in [How to Be Happy According to Jesus: The Study of the Beatitudes](#) by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Salem Women's Bible Study).

## The Promised Land

The Promised Land isn't just the physical land that God promised as a heritage to his people. Some refer to heaven as the Promised Land. God's eternal Promised Land is the heritage of all who come to Him through his Son.



If Israel was ever going to enter and abound in the Promised Land, they would first need to walk through the wilderness with God's word in their hearts, they would first need to know how to be brought low (Philippians 4:12).

Like me, and possibly like you, they would need to be taken into the desert and learn the only thing they would ever need is Jesus.

Have you ever had your hopes dashed, a devastating thing happen, or a situation never seems to get better? That's often what the wilderness season feels like.

The Israelites felt the same way. They were set free from the Pharaoh, but they were far from being free from the sins of complaining, lack of trust in God, and stubborn hearts. Their eleven-day journey to the Promised Land turned into 40 years.

In fact, many of those who left Israel never saw or entered the Promised Land. Instead, they wandered the wilderness in a constant cycle of complaining, worshipping idols, and watching God respond. This is why God called them into the wilderness.

The wilderness is defined as an uncultivated, uninhabited, and inhospitable region. Do any of these things sound comfortable? They're not supposed to be, it's not a comfortable place because it's temporary.

The wilderness is a womb in which God's character can grow if you let it. It is a make-or-break kind of season. Its purpose is to free you from sin and bondage so you can be transformed into the person God has called you to be.

Our wilderness seasons do not create the cancer that comes out of us; it exposes what was already there but hidden under distractions, business, and abundance.

Because God loves us, he puts these idols in plain view so we can see them, deal with him, and bury them in the desert. There is no place for them in the Promised Land. Romans 8:14-17 reminds us of this:

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

Depending on how the term is used, the Promised Land represents either a physical location in Israel or "a place or situation where someone expects to find great happiness. When you examine the true meaning and origin of the Promised Land, you will find it first referenced in Genesis 12.

This is the introduction of God's involvement and movement in the Promised Land. He instructs Abram (before God renamed him Abraham) to leave what is familiar to him and go to a land that God predestined for him and his descendants.

*"...Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3).*

Later, God promises him a land flowing with milk and honey. It's not just the land that God promised the Israelites. Israel acquired the Promised Land only



through God's guidance and his miraculous intervention in history (Exodus 33:14–16; Psalm 44:1–8; 136:10–22).

At that time, in the Bible, the boundaries of the Promised Land were from the River of Egypt (the Nile) to the Euphrates (Exodus 23:31). Today, it includes modern-day Israel, including Gaza and the West Bank, and Jordan, as well as parts of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

It's also figurative in terms of our relationship with God. Today's more modern definition of the Promised Land speaks about a better life, situation, joy in the Lord, and living the abundant life he promised us. It comes through our obedience and love for our mighty God.

Today, if you are standing in the middle of the wilderness or perhaps, you're standing on the edge of the Promised Land, remember he will never leave you or forsake you. The journey you are on will have victory in Jesus. Embrace the wilderness moments knowing that it will give way to the Promised Land with Christ!

Adapted from "What Is the Significance of the Promised Land in the Bible?" by Heather Riggelman, Crosswalk.com

**Church Financial Update**

Needed to Date: \$35,842.49  
 Received to Date \$45,893.44

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

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

**Salem and Venedocia Sights**



April 4, 2021 - Flowering of the Cross before the Easter Service



April 6, 2021 - Church reception meal after David Owens' funeral



Easter- skit display

**Salem News**

Dear Salem family,

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support shown to us in Dave's passing. Thank you to Pastor Tom for his visits and the beautiful service, to the church for the lovely floral arrangement, Connie O'Neill for the wonderful organ music, Catie Emery for her excellent sound tech work, all those who prayed for us, sent cards, gifts, and flowers, prepared and served the lunch or contributed in any way. We are so thankful for loving and caring friends, neighbors, and church family. All memorial gifts are going to the Music Committee because Dave had such a great love for music.

The Owens Family

**Upcoming Events**

- May 4<sup>th</sup> Local Elections
- May 9<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day celebration & dedication of new hymnals
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of Pentecost Communion
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Honoring the Veterans
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day celebration in the park



Easter – Steve Richards and Denise Pugh reading Easter scriptures



April 18, 2021 – Junior Bell practice



Easter skit



April 21, 2021 – Five inches of last snow on the blossoms at Salem



Easter - Heather McClure special music



April 11, 2021 Even Pugh special music



April 22, 2021 - Dominic Adkins with John Lloyd when Dominic received the prestigious Jefferson award at the Lima banquet



# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

## Shut-Ins

### **Bartie Jones**

407 Stony Ridge Dr  
Sandusky, OH 44870

### **Marjorie Rhodes**

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

### **Marjorie Eutsler**

15044 Main St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

### **Paul & Doris Price**

18890 Bebb St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

### **Marian Morris**

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

### **Ione Owens**

16398 State Rd  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

## Serving our Country

### **Cory McCollow**

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

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

Cmr 405 Box 3825  
APO, AE 09034

### **Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)**

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

### **Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler**

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

### **Sgt. Micah Linger**

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

### **Gyer Blackmore (Army)**

Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC  
101<sup>st</sup> DSB  
APO AE 09366

## Away at College

**Evan Pugh** – University of Northwestern Ohio

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

## Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Ken Coil** and  
**Danny King**

## Congratulations

To **Dominic Adkins** for the Jefferson award and to  
**Andrew Emery** for his engagement to Kenzie  
Ringwald.

## Birthdays

2 Audrey (Hobbs)Menker	3 Kim Coil
3 Deb Fair	3 Eric Pugh
4 Rod Eutsler	4 Heather Matthews
6 Emma Jones	7 Josh Lloyd
8 Bob Pugh	10 Rex Lloyd
12 Sandy Clayborn	15 Dane Ebel
16 Chance Mosier	17 Mary Jane Haines
17 Delayna Profit	17 Stacia Profit
18 Ione Owens	19 Holden Price
22 Dawson Kimmet	23 Carolyn Girod
25 Taylor Hoehn	31 Vincent Richards

## Anniversaries

13 Jerry & Marylin Foust	15 Steve & Lindsay Richards
19 Bart & Rosemary Strick	20 Mark & Melissa Zielke

## Prayer Concerns

Katie Adams (recovering from surgery)  
Barry Coil (stroke)  
Kathy Comer  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Denny Febus (cancer)  
Inara Febus (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)  
Danny King (cancer)  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
LuAnn (family issues)  
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd  
Donald Martin

Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
Byron Mohr  
Dave Morris (Zeb)  
Marian Morris  
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)  
Ione Owens  
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Marjorie Rhoades  
Mary Rigdon  
Shalia Schomaeker  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt  
Raymond Young  
6 Area Nursina Homes and residents

# May 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	3	<b>4</b> Election Day 7 PM Bible Study	5	6	7	8
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Worship Mother's Day Recognition & Dedicate Hymnals 10:45 Sunday School	10	<b>11</b> 7 PM Bible Study	12	13	14	15
<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pentecost Offering 10:45 AM Session Meeting	17	<b>18</b> 7 PM Bible Study at Pamela's house	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Worship & Communion 10:45 AM Sunday School	24	<b>25</b> 7 PM Bible Study	<b>26</b>	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship Veterans Recognition 10:45 AM Sunday School	<b>31</b> 11:00 AM Memorial Day celebration in the park					

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
May 2	Gwenda Blackmore	Vern & Liz Hobbs	Connie O'Neill
May 9	Mark & Missy Zielke	Marylin Foust	Connie O'Neill
May 16	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Marylin Foust	Joyce Morris
May 23	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Marylin Foust	LaDonna Allenbaugh
May 30	Bob & Kathy McCollow		Dave Van Tilburg
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Elizabeth Adkins

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



April 18, 2021 Carla Breese with grandchild, Wrenley, after the Sunday service. Wrenley is playing with Carla's bunny ears on her purse.

## *Sounds of Salem Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)  
[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

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)

May 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 2</b>	
Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 9</b>	
Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 16</b>	
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
<b>Day of Pentecost – May 23</b>	
Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
<b>Trinity Sunday – May 30</b>	
Isa. 6:1-8	Psalm 29
Rom. 8:12-17	John 3:1-17