

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 23 Issue 07

July 2021

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today" (Deuteronomy 8:10-11 NLT).

In a few days, our nation will be celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was a death-defying decision for each patriot who dared to sign it. Armed with little more than hunting guns, they engaged in battle with the most powerful nation in the world.

But what we often forget is that in proclaiming their independence from England, our Founding Fathers made a similarly bold Declaration of Dependence upon their Almighty God.

They remembered that their descendants, a few centuries earlier had revolted against the dictatorial rule of King John and compelled that King to sign the Magna Carta. It limited the power of the King over them and established the "Rule of Law" over the "Rule of a Man."

During the Revolutionary War, they fought to be citizens of the "land of the free and home of the brave." Patrick Henry gave his famous speech before the Virginia Provincial Convention. He concluded his speech: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death." He could be a martyr because he was a Christian at peace with God, and he was fighting for a righteous cause. The rally call was "No king but Jesus!"

In the back of their minds, they thought of the people of Israel as they were entering the land that God had promised to them. Our Founding Fathers were careful to remember God. Even the 2nd paragraph of our Declaration of Independence begins with these amazing words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

But what about the United States today? The nation is torn at its seams. People who are caught up in sin often think they are free, but in reality, they are subjugated to



sin. Our Founding Fathers knew that OUR REAL FREEDOM COMES IN CHRIST. As Christians, we have greater freedom than any constitution can grant us. We have the freedom that is offered in Christ Jesus.

The New Testament word for freedom is the word "Redemption." As a Christian, we know that "Redemption" means "to be set free." It means that we have been purchased with a price, that we have been released from our bondage, and now we are free.

If you are deeply concerned about America, and you earnestly want God to bless her - then live a life in agreement with the will of God. Like our Founding Fathers, we will then find in Christ our true life, liberty, and happiness, and you will honestly have the right to sing: "God Bless America."

Pastor Tom Emery

God Bless America

"God Bless America" is an American patriotic song written by Irving Berlin in 1918 during World War I and revised by him in the run up to World War II in 1938. The later 1938 version recorded by Kate Smith, takes the form of a prayer for God's blessing and peace for the nation.

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

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To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home

Happy are the Helpers

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7).

Mercy is love that is given when it is not deserved. It is forgiveness that is given when it is not earned. It is a gift that flows like a refreshing stream to quench the fires of angry, condemning words.

Mercy in our day is almost a forgotten quality. The Greek word for “mercy” literally means “full of pity.” It describes someone with a sympathetic heart and is often used to describe the Lord Jesus. In Matthew 15, we read of the compassion Christ had for a demon-possessed woman. In chapter 18, Jesus shows compassion for a man in debt; and in chapter 20, He has compassion on two blind men. In Mark 5, we read about Christ’s compassion for a man in need of deliverance.

For Christians, mercy is a Spirit-guided ability to manifest practical, compassionate, and cheerful love toward someone who is suffering. Those less fortunate than ourselves are the ones to whom we should show mercy. Mercy is one of the noblest virtues. It dares to express tenderness in the midst of a harsh and cruel world.

In Luke 10, Jesus told a story of a Samaritan who was willing to step out of the context of his day and act differently than the lawyers and priests of the first century. Rather than just saying a prayer for him, the Samaritan exhibited real love by taking care of someone else in need.

This act of mercy wasn’t without cost. The Samaritan took out of that which was his own to help another. He paid for the oil and medicine. He gave the wounded man transportation. He gave up time in his schedule to care for this stranger and even paid for the man to stay at an inn until he was better. You can’t show mercy without it costing you something. The true spirit of

mercy is to give of yourself completely to someone who could offer nothing in return.

Another of Jesus’ illustrations of mercy is the forgiven debt. Jesus told the story of a man who owed a king a great sum of money but was unable to repay it. He was mercifully forgiven, but the same man then went out and had another man arrested for not paying him back ten dollars. The king was furious



when he found out and had the ungrateful wretch arrested until he could pay back every penny. Jesus finished by saying, “So My heavenly Father also will do to you, if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses” (Matthew 18:35).

What made it mandatory that the ten-dollar debt be forgiven? The fact that his own huge debt had been cancelled.

We have been forgiven a great debt by our heavenly Father; one we could never repay. Our sin debt was so great that no amount of good works or sacrifice could ever take care of it.

But when Christ died on the cross, He forgave us freely of everything we have ever done. He has shown us great mercy. So, we are to extend mercy to others. He wants us to love others, even when they don’t deserve it. We are flawed human beings in need of mercy.

The way we treat others is the way we’ll be treated. And the good news is that if you will show mercy to others, even when they don’t deserve it., the result will be happiness.

Ask God to give you sensitivity to those around you. Look for people with needs, and then reach out in mercy and meet them. The world says to look out for yourself, but the Lord says to look out for others. The world wants you to believe that you’ll be happy when you take care of yourself, but nobody is really happy in a selfish world – they’re alone.

Happiness is found in ministering to others. The merciful will obtain mercy and will find true happiness in being merciful to others.

Adapted from “How to Be Happy According to Jesus” The Study of the Beatitudes by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Salem Women’s Bible Study)

2021 Gymanfa Ganu News

The music committee would like to remind everyone to mark your calendars for Sunday September 5 for our annual Gymanfa Ganu. Make plans now to attend the 9:30 AM church service, the light supper at 4:30 PM and the Gymanfa starting at 7 PM. Even if you are not a singer, you will be lifted up by all the beautiful voices as they blend together in 4-part harmony. You will leave the evening with a song in your heart!

In addition this year, we are celebrating 50 years of the installation of our pipe organ. Our organist for the day is Connie O'Neill and on the piano will be Mary Ann Matthews. These two talented young ladies will be treating us to a duet that you will not want to miss.

Conductor Kevin Fancher will direct the Song Festival. He is currently the Director of Music at Horizon Science Academy Middle School in Columbus, Ohio, and holds a degree in Music Education from the College of Wooster. He has been a music director and teacher for 14 years and has taught throughout Ohio as well as New York City. Kevin's skills as a composer, arranger, and performer (both vocalist and instrumentalist) are sought after by many bands, singers, and songwriters.



Kevin's connection to his Welsh heritage is strong. He has been a lifelong attendee at the Gymanfa Ganu in Venedocia. In addition to participating as a singer in the Gymanfas, he has also performed special music at the Venedocia Gymanfa Ganu many times. He took pride in singing three Welsh folk songs (in Welsh) for his Senior Recital. (While not a Welsh speaker, he was told his pronunciation was spot-on!) He has also been the high tenor in a family quintet, including his two brothers, cousin, and father, accompanied by his mother at the piano (who served as the director at the Venedocia Gymanfa in 2009).

Kevin, his wife Katy, and their son, Rhys, currently live in Dublin, Ohio.

Recent June Events

The June 18th Annual Ice Cream Social was a success! Thanks to all who helped! The food was great, and it was so nice to be able to socialize with each other.

The June 23rd Senior Luncheon was well attended. The next one will be in September.

Upcoming Events

The **First United Methodist Church** is hosting through July the **on-going Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting**. The next meeting is at **noon, Thursday, July 1st** at 113 West Central Ave., Van Wert, Ohio.

July 4th - **Dominic Adkins' graduation party** will be held on July 4th, 2021 from 3-9pm at the Adkins Home. The address is 15584 Ohio City-Venedocia Road.

July 18th - **Marjorie Eutsler's 90th birthday party** 4 to 6 at the Lincolnview Community building (behind the Lincolnview High School). Light appetizers, cake, and ice cream will be served. Please no gifts.

July 27 & 28th - **Vacation Bible School** is 9 to 11:30 AM. The theme is "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" and "Who Is My Neighbor?"

Sept 5th - **Gymanfa Ganu Song Festival** is with a meal at 5 PM and the service at 7 PM.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date:	\$54,817.92
Received to Date	\$66,413.56

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

New Church Hymnals

Doris and Paul Price donated a hundred new hymnals to Salem to replace the well-worn older ones.

Thank you, Paul and Doris from your Salem Church family!



Salem and Venedocia Sights



May 31, 2021 – Memorial Day speaker in Memorial Park



June 6, 2021 – Marilyn Stockton and Charlie Boroff



June 6, 2021 – Graduate Recognition – Christina Emery, Archaeology University of Cincinnati, Dominic Adkins, Spencerville H.S., Dawson Kimmet, Lincolnview H. S., Isaiah Pugh, Spencerville H. S.



2021 Gymanfa Ganu News



The 2021 Gamanfa Ganu is set to begin at 7 PM on September 5th. Conductor, Kevin Fancher, will direct the Song Festival. The meal is at 4:30 PM before the event. All are invited – no tickets necessary!



June 18, 2021 – Salem Ice Cream Social at the Lions Club Building



Salem Ice Cream Social at the Lions Club Building



Salem Ice Cream Social at the Lions Club Building



June 23, 2021 – Senior Luncheon and bingo entertainment.



2021-06-25 – Spencerville Parade staging area



2021-06-25 – Spencerville Parade



June 27, 2021 – Pastor Tom Emery delivering the sermon.

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

John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

20155 Venedocia-Eastern
Venedocia, OH 45894

Paul & Doris Price

18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris

Hometead At Towne Ctr
240 Towne Ctr Blvd,
Room # 210
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ione Owens

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Road
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)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

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

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
10 Tuzz Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Dunlap	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	16 Ron Owens
18 Marjorie Eutsler	22 Dave Rees
24 Evan Pugh	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Strickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

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 **Ralph Eversole**
and Ray Young.

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	15 Peter & Morgan McCollow
19 Cory & Sylvia McCollow	24 Bill & Ruth Evans
25 David & Nancy Jo Breese	27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd

Prayer Concerns

Kaitie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Marjorie Eutsler
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Brett Hammons (brain tumor)
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann King (cancer)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

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
Reddington Rothgeb (leukemia)
Shalia Schomaeker
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Betty Tennant
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt
6 Area Nursing Homes and residents

July 2021



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon - Van Wert County prayer meeting at the Van Wert United Methodist Church	2	3
4 Independence Day 9:30 AM Worship Dominic Adkins party	5	6	7	8 Noon - Van Wert County prayer meeting at the Van Wert United Methodist Church	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	12	13	14	15 Noon - Van Wert County prayer meeting at the Van Wert United Methodist Church	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting 1 to 4 PM Marjorie Eutsler's Birthday at the Lincolnview Community Building	19	20	21	22 Noon - Van Wert County prayer meeting at the Van Wert United Methodist Church	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship	26	27 VBS 9:30-11:30	28 VBS 9:30-11:30	29 Noon - Van Wert County prayer meeting at the Van Wert United Methodist Church	30	31

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
July 4	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Connie O'Neill
July 11	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Jean Owens	Connie O'Neill
July 18	Jeff & Kim Coil	Jean Owens	Dave Van Tilburg
July 25	Todd & Jayne Morris	Jean Owens	Lexie Greer
		Greeter:	Gloria Leiter

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



2021-06-26 Brook and Rayna at the Spencerville Parade

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

July 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 4	
2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10	Psalm 48
2 Cor. 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 11	
2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19	Psalm 24
Eph. 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 18	
2 Sam. 7:1-14a	Psalm 89:20-37
Eph. 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 25	
2 Sam. 11:1-15	Psalm 14
Eph. 3:14-21	John 6:1-21