

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12 NLT).

When I was a new Christian, I wondered why the church had hymns such as “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and children’s songs, like: “I’m In the Lord’s Army.” Christians were supposed to be pacifists and to turn the other cheek – right? But on the other hand, the Bible makes it clear that we if you are a Christian, you are in a war.

As I learned more about spiritual warfare and renewing our minds in sync with God’s Word, things started to make more sense. I realized that the reason the High Priests and Officials of Israel and Jerusalem crucified the Son of God, was that the principalities and powers, of this world, hidden behind the scenes, were at war with Christ and His followers. Satan suddenly discovered that God is in control with Christ’s resurrection and that it was Christ who laid down His life to pay for our sins. Christ had victory over sin.

The early church grew from the blood of the martyrs and their witness of their uncompromising faith in God. It was the Roman Empire persecution of the church in the early church years that demanded each person worship the emperor as god. With swords unsheathed, they demanded that everyone “burn incense to Caesar” to give their worship to him. Rather than deny Christ and lose their eternal salvation, many Christ-followers refused and were martyred by being run through by the sword, beheaded, burned at the stake, or fed to the lions in public spectacles for refusing to burn incense to Caesar. Martyrdom still is common today.

The Bible tells us that Satan is going to throw all that he controls at the true Church of Jesus in the last days because he knows his time is up soon. That will be the centralized news media, the social media, the educational institutions, financial institutions, and the powers of coercion of police and the military. The Book of Revelation tells us that one day as we take on a digital currency, those who follow Christ will not be able to buy and sell unless taking the Mark of the Beast. Frankly, anti-God socialism and communism are not about a better world, but about a world under authoritarian control - witness the recent Cuban and

Chinese Communist Party uprisings and the people trying to escape for personal freedom and to worship Christ openly.

The battle belongs to the Lord. It is like saying to a bully on the schoolground, “Here is a line Satan. Don’t step over it.” When he and his demons do, we step beside, and we blow a whistle or pray, “Go get Him Lord.” The battle belongs to the Lord. Like Stephen, if we should be martyred, we will go immediately into the presence and the embrace of Jesus Christ (read Acts 7:51-60).

Finally, Jesus is going to come back for a battle with Satan to claim ultimate victory over Satan and his demons. He will be defeated with just one Word by Christ. With that final victory, Christ’s believers will be ushered into the perfect heavenly world promised where “He will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever” (Revelation 21:4). It is a time that we will truly shout, “Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!”

Pastor Tom Emery



Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred
circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews
and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and
flaring lamps,
His day is marching on.

I have read His fiery gospel writ in rows of burnished
steel!
"As ye deal with my contemners, so with you My grace
shall deal!
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with
his heel,"
Since God is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call
retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment
seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my
feet!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the
sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and
me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men
free!
While God is marching on.

Artist: Bill & Gloria Gaither. Writers William Steffe and Julia Ward..

Happy are the Holy

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). In Greek, this is literally translated, "Happy are the pure in heart, for they, and they alone, will see God." Jesus tells us if we truly want to be happy, we ought to be holy. That's hard to do. Satan tempts us with the lure of pleasure, but those activities always result in unhappiness. Unholy people aren't happy. Sin doesn't ever produce the joy it promises.

The dictionary says purity is "freedom from foreign mixtures or matter, cleanness, freedom from dirt or foulness, guilt or defilement." To be pure means that you are living a "clean" life. Jesus called the Pharisees "whitewashed tombs" which looked nice outside but

contained rotting corpses on the inside. God wants us to be holy throughout, having been cleansed from sin and changed by the Spirit of God. The Lord wants us to have an inner holiness with an attitude of love for God and others. We are to have clean hearts.



Proverbs 23:7 reads, "As he thinks in his heart, so is he." To have a clean heart is to have a clean mind. If you get your heart right, you won't have to worry about the outside. Your actions will follow what your mind is thinking. Godliness doesn't move from the outside in, but from the inside out. If you get your heart right, you'll live a holy life. And one of the benefits of a holy life is the happiness of seeing God.

David wasn't perfect. Anyone who's read about him in the Old Testament knows that. He made a number of mistakes, some of them big ones. But he was a man after God's own heart. Seeking the things of God and being willing to obey Him no matter what the cost is to have a heart for God. That's the sort of person Jesus was describing in the Beatitudes.

Perfect purity is the kind we will one day have in heaven. Every single person who has put their trust in Jesus is going to be one hundred percent pure just as Christ Himself is pure. We will be as holy as God. That's perfect purity, but it's out there in the future.

Positional purity is what Christ has done for us through His sacrifice. None of us can achieve holiness. We can't be pure in our own strength, but if we understand what Christ has done for us and put our trust in Him, He will take away our sins and give us His righteousness. Because of Jesus, God no longer counts your sin against you. He looks at you and sees purity due to the gracious sacrifice of His Son. I am pure in Jesus, not because I'm good, but because His goodness has been granted to me.

Practical purity is the everyday living sort of purity. The Lord expects me to live like the righteous person I have become. Sanctification is living each day in light of the righteousness of Christ. God wants us pure, but purity is a challenge. We seem to have a lot of trouble putting our purity into practice. To put purity into practice, you have to have a strategy. First, make a **covenant with your eyes**. The eyes are the window to the soul. They are the gate through which most impurity gets into your heart and mind. So be wary of the books you read, the movies and TV you watch and the magazines you look at.

Another thing you can do is to **consecrate your mind**. Remember Proverbs 23:7, “As he thinks in his heart, so is he.” According to Jesus, the heart is the seat of indwelling sin. So we are to focus our minds on good things. Philippians tells us those things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, virtuous and praiseworthy, we should meditate on these things. Don’t fall into the trap of believing you can’t control what you think. You can decide not to expose yourself to evil things so that you won’t be pondering them.

If you want to begin practicing purity, **commit yourself to Bible memory**. His God’s Word in your heart, and it will keep you from sin. When your mind is filled with God’s truth, it won’t be filled with impurities.

Learn to **counteract Satan’s strategy in your life**. Having a plan is critical to developing practical purity. If you’re struggling with purity, analyze the enemy. Where, when and how does he attack you? Look for ways to strike back. God wants you to be holy because He is holy. He desires you to be like Himself. Impurity separates us from God. If you want to know God, cultivate purity in your life.

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

2021 Gymanfa Ganu News

Conductor Kevin Fancher will direct the Song Festival. 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).

2021 Gymanfa Ganu



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!

Prayer Events

The **Trinity Friends Church** is hosting through August the **on-going Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting**. The next meetings are at **noon, Thursday, August 5th through the 26th** at 605 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert, Ohio.

Salem and Venedocia Sights



2021-07-18 Session Meeting planning summer events.



We celebrated **Marjorie Eutsler’s 90th birthday** on July 18, at the Lincolnview Community Building; her address is: 15044 Main St, Venedocia, OH 45894 to send cards.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date:	\$63,251.45
Received to Date	\$77,855.06

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

Thank you to all the families who brought your children to VBS this year! They enjoyed stories, crafts, songs games and yummy snacks! Here is what they learned.

Vacation Bible School

Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... You must love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

But who is my neighbor? We learned that our neighbor is not just the people who live next door. Jesus says your neighbor is EVERYONE in the whole world. We heard about Zacchaeus who was known as a sinful tax collector. He was thought of as unkind, unpleasant and unlovable. Jesus reached out with kindness to Zacchaeus and his heart was changed by Jesus' love. We heard about the Good Samaritan. Jesus told the story of a man from Samaria who went out of his way to help an injured person who normally he would consider his enemy.



The youth raised \$410 during VBS for Sophia Becker, a brain cancer patient who wanted a Make-A-Wish event. The youth were also making up and giving away food and water packages to the needy.

They also learned some ways to love our neighbors like:

- *Treat them the way we want to be treated
- *Be kind to them
- *Forgive them when they have hurt our feelings
- *Be helpful in times of trouble
- *Be their friend
- *Pray for those who treat us badly

We also learned it isn't easy to keep these commands. We need to pray for God's help each and every day. Some practical ways we all can love our neighbors:

- *Help a neighbor with yard work
- *Write or draw an encouraging note
- *Help with the family chores
- *Deliver a fresh picked bouquet of wildflowers
- *Spend time with a lonely person
- *Share your lunch with a classmate
- *Clean up a local park
- *Be polite and respectful to others

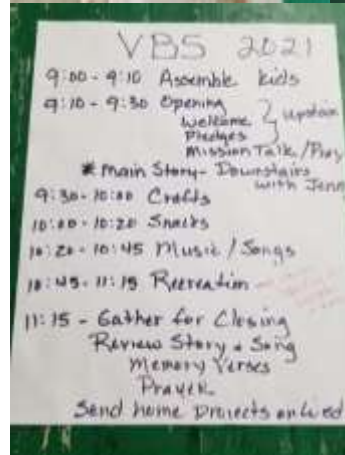
Thank you to the many volunteers who showed the children Jesus' love in a practical way! God bless you all!



2021-07-29 VBS Setup after the Sunday Service



2021-07-27 VBS begins



The events and the props that fascinated the kids

Thirty-three kids, five high school helpers, and several adult volunteers



Waiting for parents afterward

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

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

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

Away at College

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

Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Ione Owens,**
Linda Lifesy, and Sheri Youngpeter.

Birthdays

4 Philip Eutsler
6 Brooke Coil
11 David Hobbs
22 Jan Jones
30 Kelly Lloyd

4 Don Owens
9 Denise Pugh
20 Austin Kimmet
27 Barb Owens

Anniversaries

12 David & Carla Breese
17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
27 Tom & Carol Emery

Prayer Concerns

Kaitie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Matt Blackmore
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair
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)
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Greg Richards
Marjorie Rhoades
Reddington Rothgeb (leukemia)
Shalia Schomaeker
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Stacy Smith
Betty Tennant
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt
Area Nursing Homes and residents

August 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship	2	3	4	5 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at Trinity Friends 605 N Franklin	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker Dave Hoose Gideon Offering 5:00 pm Trustee meeting	9	10	11	12 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at Trinity Friends 605 N Franklin	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker Kevin Clancy	16	17	18	19 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at Trinity Friends 605 N Franklin	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship	23	24	25	26 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at Trinity Friends 605 N Franklin	27	28
29 9:30 AM Worship	30	31				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
August 1	Gwenda Blackmore	Morgan McConnell	Lexie Greer
August 8	Mark & Missy Zielke	Morgan McConnell	Lexie Greer
August 15	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Morgan McConnell	Lexie Greer
August 22	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Jen Pugh	Lexie Greer
August 29	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Jen Pugh	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Marylin Foust

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



May 30, 2021 - Corey and Alyssa Hobbs were married.

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

August 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

10th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 1

2 Sam. 11:26-12:13 Psalm 51:1-12
Eph. 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 8

2 Sam 18:5-9,15,31-33 Psalm 130
Eph. 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

12th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 15

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111
Eph. 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

13th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 22

1 Kings 8:1,6-11,22-30,43-43 Psalm 84
Eph. 6:10-20 John 6:56-69

14th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 29

S. of Sol. 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23