

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light" (Matthew 11:29-30 NLT).

I recently conversed with a student who wanted me to know about her newfound beliefs about God learned at college. She was now into the Eastern Religions, and she said to me, "I have messed my life up so much that I need to come back in another life for another chance." She also struggled with the depression of seeing life as hopeless, without meaning or purpose. Life to her was spiritually just a series of cycles of death and rebirth.

In turn, I told her the unique aspects of Christianity. "You don't have to die and come back as a cow or something. Every human (outside of God in human form as Christ) has also messed up their life, and they also need another chance. That's why Jesus came back to show how you could live a life where your sinful past is forgiven by God, and God would walk with you through the consequences after you are forgiven."

I continued to share with her that Jesus was seen by over 500 people ([1 Cor. 15:1-11](#)) after dying on the cross to prove that there is life after death and heaven offered us if we accept Christ while alive on earth. Otherwise, we die in our sins and are banished from the presence of God to a place in hell away from our loving God. We have one chance for our sins to be forgiven; we must repent while alive in this life. Seeing Jesus come back from the dead proves what Jesus was offering is true. No other religious leader was once dead and came back from the dead.

Once you realize that, it's the most wonderful thing in the world. Jesus dying to pay for your sins is enough to give you a new beginning before God if you are saved by "yoking" with Him in this simple but meaningful prayer.

I gave her this warning: "Many people say a prayer, and it's their 'fire policy' from going to hell. To them, it may not be a transformational prayer, and their heart doesn't change. I'm convinced from my own life that everyone needs their own personal encounter with God that is separate from anyone else. It is between God and you going deeper together."

"Once you have that kind of experience, no one and no educational system will talk you out of your faith. I say that because it is your unique time to have your encounter with God. Everything was created on this earth by the spoken Word of God, and everything is going to begin with you speaking the Word of God. The word 'Lord' means someone having authority over you. Say this prayer out loud after me and mean it to the best of your ability."

"Dear God, I repent that I am a sinner. I have done many wrong things. Change my heart, my God. I'm so sorry for my sins. I believe the blood of Jesus washes away every mistake I've ever made. Thank you for dying on the cross for me and resurrecting Yourself to prove to the world that there is truly life after death and a heaven in the future. I will tell others about Your resurrection. I know now that I am clean. I'm starting fresh as if this is the first day of my new life. Fill me with Your promised Holy Spirit. Be my Savior to forgive me, and my Lord to lead me. I love you, Lord, and I want my own experience with You throughout my life. I pray in the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

"Now begin living in the Holy Spirit the life you always wanted with the God that can satisfy your every need. Jesus calls you to live a life that is more than abundant than what this world offers."

If you declare with your mouth,
JESUS IS LORD

and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead
you will be saved



Romans 10:9
-Samuel Janras-

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold:
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be,
Ever, only, all for Thee.
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Written by Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) [Link](#).

Happy are the Healers

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Humanity's quest for peace has been illustrated throughout the years by architecture. The *Statue of Liberty* offers a gesture of peace to those who come to our shores. The *Statue of Shalom* in Israel looks over the harbor at Haifa to remind people that there is another way. In front of Tokyo Station is the statue of a man with his arms outstretched to heaven, while underneath is a Greek word *agape* – love. In almost every part of the world, you can find some symbolic representation of a man's quest for peace. Yet for all our labors, there is little peace in the world.



The Bible says, the problem is not with nations, but with the nature of man. As long as man remains separated from God and refuses to follow His divine plan for life, he will never be able to know any true peace. As long as he determines in his heart to have none of God, he cannot have peace. God alone knows what brings peace, and He says that until we accept the Prince of Peace, there isn't any chance of getting out of the war zone. So, we fight at home, at work, at church and among nations – all because we don't have peace.

Peace with God: Children come into this world screaming for their own way, at war with God. But while we were at war with Him, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into this world. He paid the penalty for all our sins when He died on the cross; so now the war is over. We can have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Without peace with God, we can never be peacemakers. We can't give away what we don't have. That means coming to terms with what Christ has done at the Cross, taking away our sins and creating a relationship between us and God. When we became Christians, we were given peace with God.

Peace of God: Many Christians have peace with God but don't have the peace of God. That's why Christian bookstores are filled with so many self-help books.

In John 14:27 the Lord says, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* He wants to give us the very peace of God. Do you have the inner calmness, the quiet assurance within you that all is well? If you have the peace of God, you can rest in peace.

Peace from God: God doesn't have a magic instruction book where you can turn to a particular page to discover

His answer to your question. Instead, His Book offers timeless principles that draw His people to Himself. As we begin to fill our minds with His principles, things become clear. Sometimes we must judge between what is good and what is best. We need peace from God to guide us.

Colossians 3:15 reads, *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”* That verse offers some great advice for deciding a course of action. After reading your Bible,

talk to Christian friends and ask the Lord to give you peace about your decisions.

Christ says those with peace will be happy – blissful, joy-filled, ecstatic people. They have a certainty that they are no longer under condemnation but have been set free from sin. The man or woman who has peace can help other people find peace with God. If you are sharing your faith with others, you have become a peacemaker; and the Bible says there is great joy in being a peacemaker.

Peacemakers bring unity between man and God, and between men and other men. Jesus warns us to reconcile with other people before coming to worship Him. We need to be at peace with men to really experience the blessing of peace with God.

Peacemakers are needed in our homes, in our communities, and among our nations. Peacemakers are needed within our churches. Paul tells us in Romans 12:18, *“As much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”* In other words, if there isn’t a moral issue or doctrinal dispute, be a peacemaker, not a warmonger. Peacemakers see through the eyes of the other person to bring them together. When we have peace with God, we can learn to see things from God’s perspective and become a peacemaker.

Peacemakers reflect the peace of God to the world, It’s obvious to everyone. *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

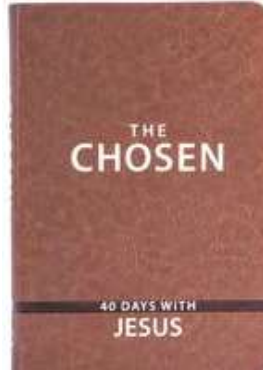
Adapted from “Happy Are the Healers: How to Be Happy According to Jesus” in The Study of the Beatitudes by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Women’s Bible Study).

Redemption

The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. John 1:17-18

The Old Testament is full of strange things: stories of a man-swallowing fish, a flood that rebooted the earth, a brass section that brought down the walls of a city – just to name a few. And there are plenty more where that crazy came from. Some stories are so outside the norm, they’re difficult to imagine. And sometimes it’s even more difficult to discern God’s purpose behind them, at least at first glance, which is why reading about Jesus is such a gift. So much of what God did in the Old Testament makes sense when we learn about the things Jesus did and said in the New.

Take the fish. God wanted to save the sinful, broken people of Nineveh, but His spokesman didn’t want the job. Instead of letting Jonah sail in the opposite direction, God had him thrown off the boat and swallowed by a sea monster that promptly swam back to Nineveh. For three days and nights, Jonah was in the belly of the beast – the same amount of time Jesus was in the tomb. Once “resurrected” (i.e., barfed onto shore), Jonah delivered God’s message of repentance and redemption – and the Ninevites



believed. Nineveh’s salvation story was a picture, a foreshadowing of what would take place on the cross: (1) humanity rebelled against God, (2) God made a miraculous way for righteousness to be restored, and (3) God gave grace to the people who believed.

That 1-2-3 pattern can be seen in the majority of the Old Testament stories, but the supernatural bells and whistles sometime keep us from seeing the heart of the matter – that from earth’s first moment until now, and from now until the end of the world as we know it, God is writing a story of rescue and redemption. And Jesus – the Creator of the world, the one who sculpted Mount Everest and dug out the Grand Canyon, the one who mapped out the galaxy and hung every star – wrote Himself into that story. He allowed Himself, in human form, to (1) be rebelled against, (2) provide a miraculous way for humanity to be restored, and (3) give grace to all who believe.

And because Jesus restored us, showing us who God was and what He was doing, we can learn from the Old Testament, but we no longer have to repeat it. *“No one has ever seen God, the only God who is at the Father’s side, [Jesus] has made him known” (John 1:18).*

Prayer Focus: Why not thank God for His story of redemption, and then ask Him to reveal Himself even more in all the ways you’re pursuing Him?

Adapted from The Chosen: 40 days with Jesus, A daily Devotional. By Amanda Jenkins, Kristen Hendricks, and Dallas Jenkins

Van Wert County Prayer Meeting

Pentecostal Way Church is hosting this month’s Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at noon each Thursday during September at 1213 Leeson Avenue, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

2021 Gymanfa Ganu Cancelled

The **2021 Gamanfa Ganu** was set to begin at **7 PM on September 5th**. At the last minute, the church received calls to cancel it this year with the uncertainty of Covid flaring-up in nearby Allen County.



Next year, Conductor, Kevin Fancher, has committed to direct the Song Festival on Labor Day Sunday. All are invited – no tickets necessary! See you next year, Lord willing!

Sheila Chilcote-Collins

Sheila has a special love of the Welsh language and has sung many times at Salem. She is a member of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio and has travelled to Columbus and Gomer for their annual Gymanfa Ganu celebrations. She was a featured soloist at Venedocia's 100th Gymanfa in 2015 and was a member of the vocal ensemble directed by Christopher Uhl and coordinated by Paul Hoverman for the 104th in 2019.



Chilcote-Collins is a ten year member of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chorus, a third year member of the Lima Symphony Chorus, is the founding member of the local ensemble, "*In Spiritu*" and loves to sing with local church choirs and groups in the surrounding area. She has been a featured soloist at many area churches, recitals, special programs, and weddings in the tri-county area.

Sheila has performed at concert venues that include Van Wert's Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Wassenberg Art Center, Lima's Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, Goshen College Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall, The Embassy Theatre, The Arts United Center, Sweetwater, Foelinger Theatre, Rhinehart Music Center at Purdue University, and the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In May of 2022, she will be joining a vocal group from Manchester University from

North Manchester, Indiana to perform Dr. Debra Lynn's oratorio, "A Family Portrait" to be staged at none other than New York City's Carnegie Hall!

History of the Organ Committee 50 Year Anniversary

The Music Committee will be celebrating the Salem pipe organ with a rededication during the Sunday Service on September 5th this month.



Music has always been meaningful to the Salem community, and in **1963** the Music Committee aware that our organ was rapidly deteriorating, established a fund to replace our present organ. In **1967** as a result of a generous gift, the congregation appointed an Organ Committee that was made up of David Hugh Evans, Bebb Jones, Glen Owens, Marvin Evans, Osborne Jones, Ann Morris, Arlene Morris, and Alford Breese. At a later date Rev. George Witmer replaced Rev. Patterson, and on Feb. 26, 1969, Carol Foster was added to the Committee.

In **1969**, the Organ Committee in its two years of investigation and study concluded a definite need for replacement of the present organ and requested permission from congregation to solicit additional funds while further study of Organ Companies continued. Permission was granted.

In **1970**, the Organ Committee presented its report for approval to the Music Committee, Session, and Trustees. Approval was granted to bring the recommendation to the congregation. At the called Congregational Meeting, the Organ Committee recommended the congregation purchase a new two manual organ with 14-15 ranks of pipes from the M.P. Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland at the contract price of \$35,500. The agreement advised the Moller Company would remove the present organ on January 1971 and have the new organ installed by March 1971.

Salem and Venedocia Sights



Fourteen-year-old Lexie Greer played piano in the month of August Sunday worship services.



Blessings for Jeremy Morris and Samantha Shaffer who will be married at Salem on September 11th.



Blessings also for Andrew Emery and McKenzie Ringwald on their engagement for a May 2022 wedding.



2021-08-29 "In Spiritu" Ensemble singing "Sing for Joy" from the oratorio, Judas Maccabaeus and "Keep Your Lamps" a traditional spiritual arranged by Andre Thomas.



"IN Spiritu" accompanist, David VanTilburg on grand piano.



2021-08-01 Sunday school with neighborhood kids coming back after Vacation Bible School attendance.

Brownie recipe from Doris Price

- Measure 2/3 c sifted flour
- Add 1/2 t. calumet baking powder
1/4 t. salt and sift again
- Melt 1/3 c. shortening & 2 squares of Baker's Unsweetened chocolate over hot water
- Add 1 c. sugar gradually to
2 well-beaten eggs, beating thoroughly; then add flour mixture and mix well
- Add 1/2 c. broken walnut meats and 1 t. vanilla

Bake in greased 8x8x2 inch pan at 350 degrees for 25 min. or until done. Cool in pan. Cut in squares. Makes approx. 20 brownies.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date:	\$73,793.34
Received to Date	\$87,005.06

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**

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Shut-Ins

Barlie 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

Maxine Stewart

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St.
Spencerville, OH 45887

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

Marilyn Stockton

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St.
Spencerville, OH 45887

Away at College

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

Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Jim Lehman & Alice Morris**

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 Elizabeth Adkins
3 Pete McCollow
4 Katie McClure
12 Jackson Dunlap
18 Tyler McConnell
19 Gianna Richards
23 April Ellerbrock
26 Marian Morris
27 Lisa Lloyd
29 Steve Richards

1 Kim Ebel
4 Claudia LeValley
11 Landon Price
18 Jayne Morris
18 Morgan McConnell
20 Megan Jones
26 Cindy Davis
27 Brian Ellerbrock
29 Stephanie Beck
30 Jack Blackmore

Anniversaries

8 Paul & Doris Price
15 Bob & Denise Pugh

11 Doug & Jan Jones
28 Eric & Jen Pugh

Prayer Concerns

Kaitie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Rick Army
Matt Blackmore
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Brett Hammons (brain tumor)
Jerry 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
6 Betty Tennant
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt
Area Nursing Homes and residents

September 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Pentecostal Way Church	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship Honoring Gymanfa at the Morning service and re-Dedicating our organ (50 year anniversary)	6	7	8	9 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Pentecostal Way Church	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting 5:00 PM Trustee meeting	13	14 7:00 Women's Bible Study	15	16 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Pentecostal Way Church	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship and Blessing of the Harvest / Drive Your Tractors to Church followed by a potluck lunch	20	21 7:00 Women's Bible Study	22 Noon-Senior Luncheon	23 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Pentecostal Way Church	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28 7:00 Women's Bible Study	29	30 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Pentecostal Way Church		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
September 5	Bob & Denise Pugh	Jen Pugh	Connie O'Neill
September 12	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Marylin Foust	Lexie Greer
September 19	Bill & Ruth Evans	Marylin Foust	Becky Reichard
September 26	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Marylin Foust	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Ron Richards

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



2021-08 The Trustees have been hard at work this summer painting and sprucing up Salem Church for activities.

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

September 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
15th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 5	
Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Psalm 125
James 2:1-17	Mark 7:24-37
16th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 12	
Prov. 1:20-33	Psalm 19
James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
17th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 19	
Prov. 31:10-31	Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8	Mark 9:30-37
18th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 26	
Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Psalm 124
James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50