

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 23 Issue 10

October 2021

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches (Revelation 2:5 NLT).*

We all can remember one time or another when we felt closer to God. We attended church, volunteered to help where needed, quickly lifted people and needs to prayer, daily read or listened to God's Word, and tithed. If there was a Bible study or prayer meeting, we could be counted on to be there. We took spiritual pride that we even joyfully tithed our family inheritance knowing that our prosperity was from God. But now we have drifted away from God.

Drifting is a slippery slope, and once started, it is hard to stop. Jesus in Revelation 2:4 calls it "losing our first love." That is losing our emotional joy in the things we do for God – our devotion is then thought as a chore, not a "I get to do this with God." We forget that all we are and have, was originally from God, not of our own making.

If we lost our first love, Jesus tells us how to restore ourselves. Verse 5 says: "Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first." He tells us to remember, repent, and to repeat.

We are to remember the past utmost point of commitment to Christ and to go back again to that point and make that our ongoing reference. We are to repent telling God that we are not as close to Christ as we want to be. Lastly, we are to repeat our "first works (verse 5)" Ask yourself, what you used to do when your relationship was more vital? Did you share the gospel whenever you could; be a part of Session or the Trustees? Did you read and memorize the Word? Were you the one who could be counted on to do things for Christ and His church?

Are you now fully cultivating your personal relationship with Christ? Are you in love with Christ and want more of Him? Then, why not have a deep and personal talk with God through Christ to go back to a deep involvement with Him. Let us pray, "Come Holy Spirit, open our joy in the Lord again!"

*Pastor Tom Emery*

## Victory In Jesus

I heard an old, old story,  
How a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
Of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory.



Chorus  
O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,  
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.  
How He made the lame to walk again  
And caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
Come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and bro't  
To me the victory.

Chorus  
O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
Beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
And the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there  
The song of victory.

#### Chorus

O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.

"Victory in Jesus" was the final song E. M. Bartlett wrote. The hymn also became his best known and most embraced song. The song is an optimistic reminder of the hope of heaven. [Link](#)

### Happy are the Harassed

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12).*

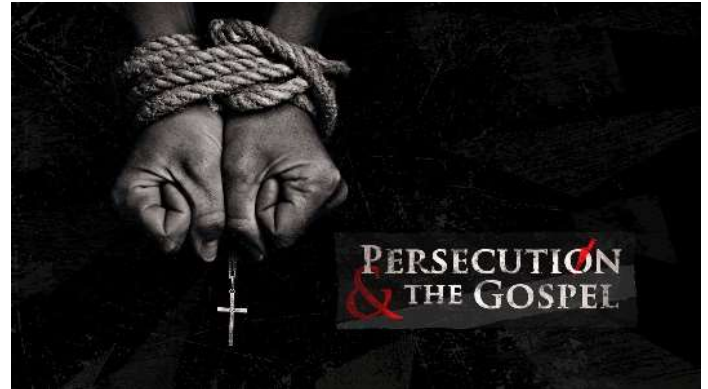
Nobody wants to be persecuted, and it doesn't seem natural to find happiness in persecution. As a matter of fact, it seems like Christians should be complimented for their extraordinary behavior, not vilified for their faith. It would seem reasonable to think that others would respect our lifestyle, even if they didn't agree with it. Yet in this world, that's not how it happens. Good people are persecuted in this life.

Second Timothy 3:12 says, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." Christ was persecuted, so were His disciples. Everyone who tries to live for Jesus in this world can expect opposition in one way or another.

**Reason for Persecution:** The kind of persecution we're talking about is "**for righteousness' sake,**" the kind that comes with having your life identified with Jesus Christ. That means we are hated or opposed solely for being a follower of Christ. When we are doing what is right and living for God, yet suffer because of it, that is persecution. Some feel it on the job, in school, in social and civic situations, sadly, even in church.

This world belongs to Satan. It is at war with God, and it attacks Christians because they represent God in the world.

**Realities of Persecution:** Jesus said we will be reviled, persecuted and harassed.



The word **reviled** literally means to throw things into your face. We will be subject to evil words and scorn. People will say bad things about us, just as they did about Christ. If we live for Jesus, we can't expect that non-Christians are going to understand us or accept us.

People will come after us to **persecute** us because we are good, and they are evil, and evil hates good. Every one of the apostles was martyred for his faith, except for John who was exiled to the Isle of Patmos. Why did God's people suffer such persecution? Because they were doing right. God never said life would be fair.

Jesus described **harassment** as people would "say all kinds of evil against you falsely." Modern entertainment seems to go out of its way to portray pastors and Christians in the ugliest way possible.

**Good News:** We don't always have control over our situation, but we *do* have control over our response to it, and what our attitude will be. Christ says that our attitude should be one of happiness. We are to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. Persecution brings rewards in which we can rejoice.

Persecution is a **compliment**. It's a way of showing us that we're being effective, that we've attracted the attention of Satan, that what we're doing is so powerful the enemy wants to eliminate us.

Persecution is a **credential**. It's proof we are on the right side. Throughout history, everyone who has been unafraid to stand up and be counted for Christ has taken flak, it's a witness that we are living for Christ in a world that doesn't know Him.

Persecution is a **catalyst**. The Bible says when we suffer for righteousness, we experience growth. Paul says in Romans 5:3-5, *"We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* The Lord is shaping you into a more mature Christian, building Christlikeness into your life.

Persecution is a **criteria**. It's a condition, a criterion for something better God has in store for those who love Him. *"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him"* (2Timothy2:12). Persecution is one of the natural consequences of living a godly life. It is to the Christian what growing pains are to a child. Remember, that the persecuted are happy because they are being prepared for heaven.

### God wants to make a difference in our world through your life.

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

### World Communion Sunday October 3rd



For many of us, taking communion at church falls into the category of "it's just what we do." But, if we're honest, we may not be entirely sure what it is and why we do it. If that's you, you aren't alone!

Along with baptism, communion (also called the Lord's Supper) is one of the two sacraments that Jesus instituted. Jesus established communion on the night he was betrayed as he ate a meal with some of his friends ([Matthew 26:26-28](#)). Sacraments symbolize and guarantee God's promises to us. They help strengthen and encourage us as we follow Jesus. During communion, the bread and wine symbolize Jesus' body and blood.

We take communion simply because Jesus commands us to ([Luke 22:19-20](#)). "Do this in remembrance of me." It is remembrance of His impending death. And so, for more than 2000 years, Christians all over the world

have been doing exactly that. Gathering together. Eating bread and drinking wine (or juice!). Remembering Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Is it just a ritual we do to remember what Jesus has done for us? Well, no. That's because, when we take communion, it's not merely about what we do. Something is actually being done *to us* as well.

Jesus is really, spiritually present in the bread and the wine. Meaning that when we eat and drink those things, we receive Jesus and the promises he makes to us in faith. What are those promises? Jesus promises to forgive our sins ([Matt. 26:28](#)). To be present with us ([1 Cor. 10:16-17](#)). To nourish and satisfy us ([John 6:35](#)). And to strengthen us, grow us, and help us persevere in following him ([John 6:53-58](#)).

Following Jesus is a long journey, and God knows that every one of us will need encouragement and strength along the way. Sacraments are some of the means by which God does just that. Taking communion doesn't make you a Christian, but it does help you follow Christ.

So, the next time at Salem you eat and drink the bread and the juice, use it as an opportunity to put your trust in Jesus, to renew your love for Him, and to reflect on the promises He's given to you. And remember, when we take communion together, it's not just "something we do." It's a tangible reminder that Jesus has done and is doing something *to us* and *for us*.

Adapted from "What Is Communion and Why Do Why Do It?" by Kyle Richter.

### Van Wert County Prayer Meetings October 7, 14, 21 & 28

The First United Methodist Church of Van Wert is hosting this month's Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at noon each Thursday during October at 113 West Central Avenue.

### Election Day Meal November 2<sup>nd</sup>



## Benefits of Living a Generous Life

There are some surprising benefits of being intentionally generous! Generous living can actually be the key to getting your cup filled up rather than being something that further depletes your resources. Somehow, like magic, pouring out the gifts and talents you have been gifted can actually help relieve some of the stress we carry in our lives.

[2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#) says, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Here are surprising benefits of generous living:

**Generosity Lowers Our Stress Levels.** [Researchers](#) decided to connect people to heart monitors and found that when people felt they were giving too little, their stress levels rose. When they gave generously, their stress levels stayed down. We have been created to be people who give of ourselves to others! One of our core needs in life is to make an impact. When we are generous with our lives, we gain a sense of purpose that fulfills this core need.

**Generosity Improves Our Health.** Health issues such as high blood pressure are major killers every year. Surprisingly, one study found that being generous helped to reduce blood pressure as much as medicine and exercise! It also lowers the risk of dementia, anxiety, depression, helps with chronic pain management, and more!

When we are generous, we are investing in a better future for ourselves and for our world. Not only are we sowing into God’s eternal Kingdom, but we are also investing in our own futures by acting in a way that benefits our minds, souls, and bodies.

### Generosity Improves Your Relationships

When we create homes that are filled with a culture of generosity, our families thrive. In a [study](#) of generosity and how it impacts marriage, researchers found that both the one that received the generosity as well as the one that freely gave expressed high levels of marital satisfaction.

**Generosity Makes You Happier.** [Giving](#) to others helps to boost our feel-good emotions. When we give, positive chemicals in our bodies such as endorphins, dopamine, and oxytocin are released. This has been found to be true across cultural and economic lines. It is just part of how we were made.

[Luke 6:38](#) says, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

When we give, God promises to give back to us in abundance what we need to thrive. He wants our cups to be running over. It is out of his great provision of the joy and strength we need that we are able to freely give to others.

**Generosity Extends Our Lives.** All these benefits lead to a longer life expectancy! One [study](#) looked at 2,000 people and found that volunteering in some way dramatically reduced their mortality rate. People who volunteered for two or more causes had a 63% lower rate of mortality than those that did not.

Our lives are longer, richer, fuller, more joyful, connected, and meaningful when we live with generosity. God made us to be vessels that share God’s love through our actions. Giving away our gifts is the most tangible way that God’s love can be experienced in our communities, for both the giver and receiver.

Adapted from “5 Surprising Benefits of Living a Generous Life” by Amanda Idleman

## Christmas Shoe Boxes



Plan to pack a shoe box this year and be part of an amazing project that brings hope and joy to children in over 150 countries. Not only do they receive fun and useful items, but they also hear the Gospel message. Since 2009, 12.5 million children reported making decisions for Christ, and 26.5 million children have been enrolled in this program. Boxes and brochures are available in the Prayer room with instructions for packing a box. Collection day is Sunday, November 21, 2021. [Link](#)

## Church Financial Update

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

Needed to Date: \$82,226.89  
Received to Date: \$93,584.56

## Salem and Venedocia Sights



2021-9-05 Gymanfa Ganu Sunday morning service with organist Connie O'Neill and pianist Mary Ann Matthews and Welsh congregational singing



Fun time organizers Kim Coil and Marilyn Foust in costume



2021-09-26 Drive your Tractor to Church Sunday / Blessing of the Harvest fall event.



2021-09-11 Jeremy and Samantha Morris' wedding



Pastor Tom with Marilyn Foust leading singing.



2021-09-22 Salem Senior Luncheon and Bingo at the Lions Club



# 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Spencerville, OH 45887

## Away at College

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

## Condolences

Condolences to the family of Dale Davies.

## 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

## Birthdays

2 Kory Mullenhour	8 Bob McCollow
13 David Breese	13 Carter Dunlap
13 Kayla Owens/Mumford	14 Jason Kimmet
25 Josh Hobbs	28 Keaton Adkins
29 Nancy Swygart	30 Jeff Coil

## Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Heather Matthews  
7 Jason & Sarah Kimmet  
21 Bob & Kathy McCollow

## Prayer Concerns

Rick Army  
Greg & Mara Beougher & family  
Lynnix Bragg  
Barry Coil (stroke)  
Kathy Comer  
Pastor Tom Emery  
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  
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)  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Stacy Smith  
Betty Tennant  
6 Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt  
Area Nursing Homes and residents

# October 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Worship Worldwide Communion & Peacemaking Offering	4	5 7:00 Women's Bible Study	6	7 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the First United Methodist Church	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker Kevin Clancy 5:00 PM Trustee meeting	11	12 7:00 Women's Bible Study	13	14 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the First United Methodist Church	15 Revive Van Wert 6 PM VW County Fairgrounds	16 Revive Van Wert 6 PM VW County Fairgrounds
<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting (Budget & Nominating)	18	19 7:00 Women's Bible Study	20	21 Van Wert County- Wide Prayer Meeting at the First United Methodist Church	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Worship	25	26 7:00 Women's Bible Study	27 Noon-Senior Luncheon	28 Van Wert County- Wide Prayer Meeting at the First United Methodist Church	29	30
<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Worship Budget & Nomination info is due.						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
October 3	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard
October 10	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Mark & Missy Zielke	LaDonna Allenbaugh
October 17	Jeff & Kim Coil	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard & Arlene Amstutz
October 24	Todd & Jayne Morris	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Dave Van Tilburg
October 31	Gwenda Blackmore	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Connie O'Neill
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Steve Richards

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



2021-09-11 Pete McCollow with his daughter, Audrey.

## *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)

### October 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 3

Job 1:1; 2:1-10      Psalm 26  
Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12      Mark 10:2-16

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 10

Job 23:1-9, 16-17      Psalm 22:1-15  
Heb. 4:12-16      Mark 10:17-31

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 17

Job 38:1-7, 16-17      Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Heb. 5:1-10      Mark 10:35-45

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 24

Job 42:1-6, 10-17      Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)  
Heb. 7:23-28      Mark 10:46-52

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 31

Ruth 1:1-18      Psalm 146  
Heb. 9:11-14      Mark 12:28-34