

<p style="text-align: center;">Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, May 18, 2025, 5th Sunday of Easter</p>
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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Pianist: Jake Wilder

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Marilyn Foust

Prelude & Lighting of the candles

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship

Psalm 148

571

<u>*Hymn</u>	May Jesus Christ Be Praised	73
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Prayer of Confession: Master, Savior, Shepherd, Messiah—we know You by many Names, Lord. **Your presence fills our lives—all that we are and all that we have comes from You.** All that You do declares Your love for us. **Yet when trouble comes, when adversity plagues us, we wonder where You are.** We even wonder who You are. **How quickly we forget that You are always with us.** Dispel our gloom and despair. **Change our garments of darkness into robes of dazzling light.** Spread Your table before us and feed us from Your hand. **Lead us in the paths of righteousness. It is in the Name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.**
(Take a moment of silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

<u>Response</u>	Glory Be to the Father	Inside Front Cover
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Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u>	The Lord's Prayer
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Baptisms of **Hayden C Morris**, **Jaxson Todd Lloyd**, and **Marcus James McConnell**

Special Music Evan Pugh

Scripture Readings	John 13:31-35	982
	Acts 11:1-18	1003
	Revelation 21:1-8	1132

Time for Children

***Hymn** **To God Be the Glory** 449

Sermon ***“A Vision of Heaven”*** Rev. Thomas Emery

***Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication for the Offertory

<u>*Response</u>	Praise God	Inside Front Cover
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*Hymn **Deemster** Welsh Hymnal, 29

*Charge and Benediction

*Taking the Light into the World

*Congregational Response	Three Fold Amen	Inside Back Cover
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**Those who can are invited to stand.*

<u>Financial Update:</u>			
Needed Weekly:	\$2,345.90	Needed to Date:	\$44,572.03
Rec'd 2025-05-11	\$2,194.25	Rec'd to Date:	\$49,178.86

Sunday: **2025-05-18 5th Sunday of Easter**
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Mark & Missy Zielke*)
 Baptisms of **Hayden C Morris**, **Jaxson Todd Lloyd**, and
 Marcus James McConnell.
10:45 AM Session Meeting

Tuesday: **2025-05-20**
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Global Methodist Church
 at Crawford and Walnut Streets.
7:00 PM The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs.

Thursday: **2025-05-22**
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets in the Prayer
 Room at Salem Church.

Sunday: **2025-05-25 6th Sunday of Easter**
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Toby & Elizabeth Adkins*)
 Veteran's Recognition
 Graduate recognition for **Makenna Kimmet** and **Ashlynn**
 Price

Announcements:

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the food we collect for May is cereal.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **June Newsletter**. Submit them to: PastorTomEmery@live.com.

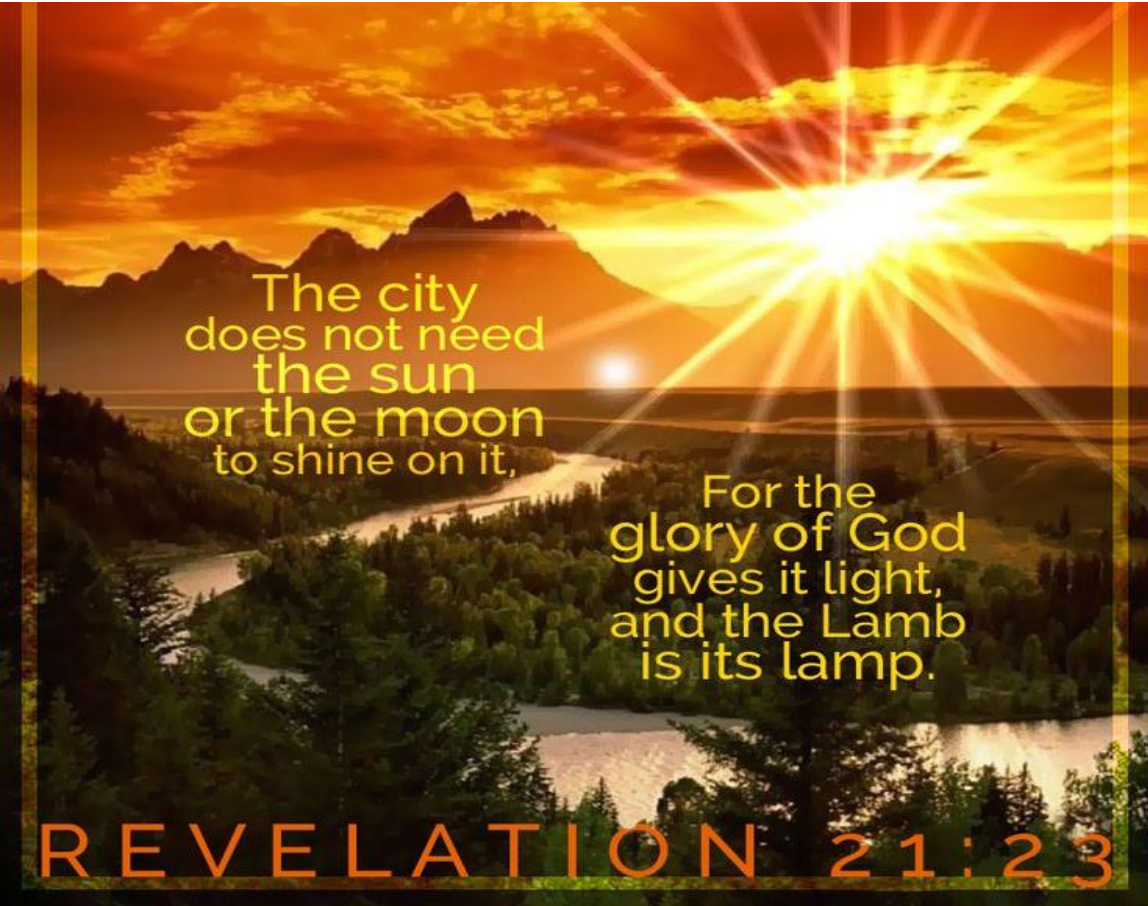
Pete McCollow's address before June 11 for cards or letters is: VA Medical Center, Building 410, Room 316, 4100 West Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45428.

Upcoming Birthdays

19 th Holden Price	22 nd Dawson Kimmet	23 rd Carolyn Girod
25 th Taylor Hoehn	29 th Wrigsby Breese	31 st Vincent Richards

Upcoming Anniversaries

19 th Bart & Rosemary Strick	20 th Mark & Missy Zielke
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Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | May 18, 2025

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

Secretary: secretary@salemchurch.cc 419-303-2032 (call/text)

Website: www.SalemChurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

David Burnett (hospice)
LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Kim Coil (foot surgery)
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)
Pete McCollow
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan’s daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh’s stepdad
Bev Place (cancer)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer/hospice)
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (leukemia)
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“A Vision of Heaven” Revelation 21:1-8
Salem Presbyterian Church
May 18, 2025

In our passage of Revelation 21:1–8, John describes the vision of the eternal heaven. John views a “new heaven and new earth” without any sea (a symbol of evil). John also sees the New Jerusalem, prepared as a beautiful Bride (21:1–2). The City and Bride are symbols of God’s people among whom God will live with for eternity. This fulfills God’s promise to live with His children and take away their pain and suffering (21:3–4). God is making all things new and providing the satisfying water of life (21:5–6). At the judgment, the overcomers will enjoy God’s presence and His eternal blessings, while the wicked will be assigned to the Lake of Fire, the second death (21:7–8).

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – If their name is found in the Book of Life, the overcomers will be in the presence of God, while the wicked will be assigned to the Lake of Fire. This life determines where you are headed.

POINT TWO – The new heaven and new earth will become the perfect environment, as a new Genesis.

POINT THREE – We are promised a new world where all tears, suffering, pain, and death are gone. Sin will be gone forever!

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THIS WEEK’S MAIN VERSE

⁷ *All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.* ⁸ *“But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Revelation 21:7-8 NLT).*

ACTION POINT

One could easily argue that God’s primary goal and the objective depicted in the entire Bible is for God to live among His children in the new creation. God’s heart is pure love. He doesn’t just want people who will worship Him even though He deserves it; He wants people who will love (and worship) Him in response to His character of perfect love. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” However, there is more to the “enjoy Him forever” part than we realize. If God has gone to this much trouble to live with us in the new creation, then we should know in our deepest being that He wants to live in intimate fellowship with us now. This passage must be heard as an expression of God’s great love for us (see Romans 8:18ff for more understanding). Why not repent and begin a deep, loving relationship with God right now? Why not be an overcomer?

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