

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 27 Issue 7

July 2025

The Church Paved the Way for America's Freedom



Where did colonists find the strength to rise up and fight to be free from King George and his tyrannical rule? Could it have been The Great Awakening that spread across the thirteen colonies just years before the Revolutionary War ever began?

Before the American Revolution, Rev. Jonathan Edwards helped kick off The Great Awakening in his July 8, 1741, sermon in Enfield, Connecticut: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

No one can accuse Edwards of being "seeker-friendly" in his sermons as he explained, "The use of this awful subject may be for awakening unconverted persons in this congregation. This that you have heard is the case of every one of you that are out of Christ." Apparently, the town of Enfield was known as strongly resistant to revival but with Edward's sermon, as he described in his own words, "God blessed the preaching of His Word in an extraordinary manner."

Pre-American Revolution Revival Fires Spread

With revival, many towns started seeing a high conversion rate with one church receiving 95 new members on one Sunday alone. As The Great Awakening spread, it was estimated one-half of all living in the South were led to salvation and one-third of everyone living in the North.

Among New England's population of 300,000, approximately 25,000-30,000 joined the Church,

helping to change the entire moral tone of New England for the better.

With King George's oppressive reign coming down on the colonies, more and more individuals desired to be free from his control.

American Conservative radio talk show host and writer, Dennis Prager, explains, "Ultimately, they wanted people to be free to practice their religion and relate to God in their own way. They all knew God is the source of liberty."

Patriot leaders were greatly influenced and strengthened by the spread of The Great Awakening across the colonies. "John Adams said that the American Revolution was preceded a generation or so by the spiritual revival in the hearts and minds of the people," notes Newcombe.

As well, Benjamin Franklin was a big supporter of it, seeing its influence in lowering crime, along with raising interest in self-government. It was estimated during this time that three out of every four colonists became Christians.

He discusses how the Founding Fathers demonstrated their belief in God by calling the colonists to "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10). They led the nation in following 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Unlike many pastors in pulpits today who shy away from addressing current issues, there arose a Black Robed Regiment, as termed by the British, of patriot pastors who not only rallied their congregants for freedom but also fought to deliver it.

A Lutheran Pastor Leads the Way

On January 21, 1776, in the Woodstock, Virginia Lutheran Church, Peter Muhlenberg preached from Ecclesiastes 3:1 reading, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

After reading Ecclesiastes 3:8 on “a time for war, and a time for peace” he declared, “And this is the time of war,” he proceeded by taking off his cleric robe to reveal a Continental Army uniform underneath. As he walked down the church aisle and out its doors, drums began rolling and men began kissing their wives goodbye to follow him to enlist, with a reported 162 enlisting in the first half-hour, and 300 men leaving the city with him the next day.

Even Frederick, Peter Muhlenberg’s brother, who initially argued that ministers should have no involvement in politics, went on to become the first Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Adapted from **How the Church Paved the Way for America’s Freedom**, by Lynette Kittle. Crosswalk.com. June 25, 2025.

PASTOR’S THOUGHTS

Turn on today’s news, and you will hear about the bombings of Iran’s nuclear bomb enrichment sites, missile attacks on Israel and our American Middle Eastern bases, Iran’s threats of an Electromagnetic Pulse bomb above our American atmosphere, as well as Iranian sabotage sleeper cells hiding on American soil. The Iranian terrorists are also threatening attacks on vital systems such as gas and water pipelines, electrical and communication grids. It can leave the average person frazzled and worried.

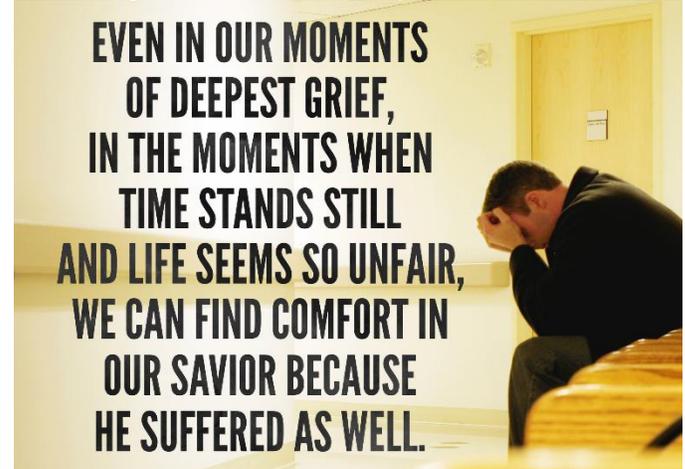
Many people, instead of being hopeful Christians, may become victims of hopelessness. The current, modern word for this very real infirmity is depression, and depression is the common ailment of many Americans and famous people over the ages.

The truth is, we are all depressed to some degree, at some time. Perhaps not to the extremes I mentioned earlier. The Book of Elijah tells how to overcome depression. God brought Elijah out of it, and by remembering his story, we can learn how to be restored to health and the high spirits of hope.

One reason for our depression is that sometimes we expect too much of ourselves. Elijah thought he was all alone, and that he was, after all, not so important anyway. Another cause of hopelessness is that we have examined the problem at hand and decided we cannot solve it. This leads to worry, fatigue, and fear, so we succumb to despair. Elijah was tired, sleepy, and exhausted. Fatigue and helplessness come easily to us in our frantic, everyday lives.

First, Elijah did the sensible thing. He got some food and some rest. The next step for us may be to return to the roots of our Christian faith — back to God, back to the church, and back to the Bible.

If you found an LP record of a Beethoven sonata with a hole about a half-inch off-center and played the record from the hole, the turntable music would sound like the cackling of a fire. A life that is not God-centered, God-surrendered, and God-focused won’t make music, only noise. Elijah started out so depressed that he wanted



to die, but he refocused himself on God. When we last saw him, the scripture says, "**And Elijah went by a whirlwind into heaven**" (2 Kings 2:11). Instead of death, Elijah was taken directly into heaven. Talk about an all-time high!

For some, feelings of despair and hopelessness can be eased by effective practical remedies. Elijah, Like Enoch, never did die; he was taken directly to heaven alive. Such is the hope of the Christian. Jesus said, "**He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.**" Transporting a person from depression to high spirits is a triumph of hope. Christ has the cure for your depression, for your hopelessness, your worries, and your despair. He wants to give you radiant joy and high hope. No other religion does what Christ does.

However, the Westminster Catechism, studied in our High School Catechism Classes, spells it out for the Christian faith when it says, "**The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.**"

That's not so depressing. That's a strong reason for hope!" But the re-establishment of your faith is not the end of the story. God not only restored Elijah’s faith with the still, small voice. God also restored Elijah’s vision. By that, I mean that the Lord changed the way Elijah looked at himself and God.

He saw, **first of all**, that God still had plans for him. That he wasn't useless. We often need that restoration of vision when we are burned out. We need the reassurance that we have value and that life isn't over. **Secondly**, Elijah saw that the success of those plans depended on God, not on him.

Finally, cast all your cares upon God because He cares for you! God will take care of you!

Pastor Tom Emery

God Will Take Care of You

By Civilla and W. Stillman Martin

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
 - o *Refrain:*
God will take care of you,
Through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.
2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.
3. All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.
4. No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.

[YouTube Link](#)

4th of July Pineapple Upside Down Bundt Cake



Ingredients

- ½ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (20 ounce) can pineapple slices, juice reserved
- 1 (10 ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 1 (15 1/4 ounce) box yellow cake mix
- 1 (3 1/2 ounce) box vanilla pudding mix
- 3 eggs
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- ⅓ cup milk, plus more as needed

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius). Spray a bundt pan with nonstick spray.
- Evenly pour the melted butter into the bottom of the bundt pan and top with the brown sugar.
- Cut the pineapple rings in half and, alternating with the cherries, place into the butter-brown sugar mixture in the bottom of the pan.
- In a large bowl, combine the cake and pudding mixes together. Add the reserved pineapple juice and milk. Add the eggs and vegetable oil, and mix until fully blended.
- Pour the batter evenly over the pineapple and cherries.
- Bake for 30 minutes, following the cake mix instructions for a bundt pan, until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.
- Cool the cake for about 10 minutes before running a knife around the edges and inner ring of the pan. Invert onto a serving plate and slice between pineapple rings to serve.
- Tip.
- When you add the reserved pineapple juice and milk in step 4, they should equal 1 cup of liquid. If you like, you can first pour the reserved pineapple juice into a liquid measuring cup. Add enough milk until you have 1 cup of liquid. Add the liquid to the combined cake-and-pudding mix, then proceed with the recipe.

Historic Welsh Translation of the Bible Visits Wales for First Time

After nearly 500 years, the first full translation of the Bible into Welsh arrived in Wales for public viewing. The Bible, translated by Bishop William Morgan in 1588, has been loaned from Westminster Abbey's Library collection to St. David's Cathedral in Wales. It will be on display there until July 9.

"The copy of the Welsh Bible presented to Westminster Abbey Library by Bishop William Morgan in 1588 reminds us of the important role of

learning in the life of the Church and of the rich collections of printed books and manuscripts which have been cared for and studied over the centuries in the libraries of our cathedrals and collegiate churches," Tony Trowles, head of the Abbey Collection, stated.



According to The Christian Post, Bishop Morgan's commission was to create a standard Welsh edition by using a compilation of past Bible translations. Morgan oversaw the printing process of the book as he stayed in London's Deanery of Westminster Abbey.

According to Trowles, this marks the first time the Bible has been taken to Wales. "It is in remarkably good condition. The plan was to print 900 copies, with the idea for every chapel and church in Wales to have a copy of the Welsh Bible," the head of the Westminster Abbey collection said in a statement shared by the BBC. "Because they were used weekly or even daily, the ones that survive in Wales are not in such good condition."

Trowles noted that the Abbey library originally chained the Bible to the bookshelves to prohibit people from taking it. Meanwhile, The Bishop of St. Davids, the Right Rev. Dorrien Davies, considered the Bible as "a special treasure of the Welsh language, and St. Davids Cathedral is "honored" to display the first complete translation of the Welsh Bible.

"It seems fitting that its first visit to Wales should be here, to the home of our patron saint, at our spiritual heart," Rev. Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones, the dean of St. Davids, said in a statement this week.

"We look forward to having it on show before its return to the abbey, to share with Welsh Christians of all traditions, for whom Y Beibl Cyssegr-Lan of 1588 Bible is a uniquely valuable treasure in our heritage of faith and language," Jones concluded.

Adapted from Milton Quintanilla author, Crosswalk Headlines, 2025-06-19.

Gymanfa Ganu Salem Music Update

August is just around the corner, and we are excited about our Gymanfa! Once again, we want to remind everyone to mark their calendars for August 31, 2025 starting at 6:30 pm (no meal prior).

Directing us this year is Truman Littler and Connie O'Neill will be at the organ. We welcome the Chancel Choir from the First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, under the direction of Greg Pysh. They will be performing two special numbers. One of the pieces was written by Haydn Morgan in 1958, who had his roots in Venedocia and went on to compose several pieces during his accomplished music career. The song he composed for a dedication at Van Wert Presbyterian church was "Blessed Are They". The choir will also perform "O Come To The Savior" by Eric Whitacre. We look forward to their presentation and appreciate all their efforts to help us share our Welsh Heritage thru music.

Please plan to attend and enjoy an evening of great singing and fellowship! Any questions contact Kathy McCollow at 419-233-6126 or kemccollow@email.com.

Ice Cream Social

On Friday, June 20, Salem held its annual Ice Cream Social at the Lions Club building. The fundraiser raised \$2,200 for church activities. Thank you to all who volunteered and made dishes and desserts. It was a great social time for all attending!



Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider donating to Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church, PO Box 678, Venedocia, Ohio 45894.

Needed to Date \$58,647.41
Received to Date \$63,475.61

Sights of Salem



2025-05-28 Shown is the Senior Luncheon and Bingo final meeting before the summer break. The luncheon will resume on September 24th. All are invited for a fun time. Shown here are the cooks and helpers.



2025-06-21 McKenna Kimmert Grad party



2025-05-04 Shown is Bob McCollow operating the wheelchair accessible elevator loaded from the handicapped parking spaces.



2025-06 toddlers Gabby and Lotte nursery enjoying the toys.



2025-06-15: Father's Day gift made by the youth in recognition of Godly Fatherhood and next column, the children handing out gifts to the fathers.



2025-06-22 Session Elder meeting with guest Jonathan Young

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

"Young at Heart"

Ann Rees

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Eutsler

Room 302
Homestead at Town Ctr
240 Towne Center Blvd
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ellen Freisner

Delphos Van Crest
1425 E. 5th St
Delphos, OH 45833

Away at College

Landon Price. (at Ohio University)

152 Mill St, Apt. 102, Athens, Ohio 45701

Isaiah Pugh (at the University of Toledo)

2632 Greenway Street
Toledo, OH 43607

Condolences to the families of Dave Burnett, Pat Jutte, and Patti Poling.

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

Madison Pugh

64 Main St
Floor 3
Stonington, CT 06378

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Corbin Evans (Marines)

Grandson of Bill & Ruth Evans

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guard)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	7 Deanna Dearing
10 Tuzz Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Price	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	15 Tootsie Young
16 Johnathan Young	18 Marjorie Eutsler
22 Dave Rees	24 Evan Pugh
25 Charlotte McConnell	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Stickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore	15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	15 Scott & Katey Lloyd
15 Pete & Morgan McCollow	
19 Cory & Sylvia McCollow	24 Bill & Ruth Evans
25 David & Nancy Jo Breese	
27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	
31 Johnathan & Katie Young	
31 Jason & Danielle Lloyd	

Prayer Concerns

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder surgery)
Allen Breece
Tom Burnett (tractor accident)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Alana Francis
Ellen Friesner
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

Charlie Good (prostate cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (Medical issues)
Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor)
Pete McCollow
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor's daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer)
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (Leukemia)
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

July 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	2	3 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Global Church.	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship	7	8 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	9	10 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Global Church.	11	12
13 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Trustee Meeting	14	15 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	16	17 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Global Church.	18	19
20 9:30 Worship	21	22 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	23	Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Global Church.	25	26
27 9:30 AM Worship	28	29 9-11:30 AM VBS 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	30 9-11:30 AM VBS			

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
July 6	Johnathan & Katie Young	Mark & Missy Zielke	LaDonna Allenbaugh
July 13	Jason & Danielle Lloyd	Mark & Missy Zielke	Ronnie Miller
July 20	Dave & Carla Breese	Mark & Missy Zielke	Jake Wilder
July 27	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard
		Greeter:	Missy Zielke

*Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
15240 Main Street
Venedocia, Ohio 45894*



2025-06-20 A Venedocia town sunset.

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc

www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Salemchurch.cc@gmail.com

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

July 2025 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR C	
4th Sunday after Pentecost – July 6	
Isa. 66:10-14	Psalm 30
Gal. 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 13	
Deut. 30:9-14	Psalm 25:1-10
Col. 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 20	
Gen. 18:1-10a	Psalm 15
Col. 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 27	
Gen. 18:20-32	Psalm 138
Col. 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13