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| <p>Salem Presbyterian Church 8th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 3, 2025</p> |
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Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome & Prayer

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| <u>Call to Worship</u> | Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 | 529 |
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| <u>*Hymn</u> | Take My Life and Let It Be | 393 |
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Prayer of Confession: Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. **You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find the solid thing that will center us again.** Help us, we pray. **Help us to see You as our center, and to cling to the good that You create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, our betrayals and lies, and all that adds to the world's hurt.** Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness that we will bear His love and truth to the world. **In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.**

(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession.)

Assurance of Pardon
Response

Glory Be to the Father

Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

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|--------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Scripture Readings | *Isaiah 5:1-7 | 621 |
| | Luke 12:49-56 | 950 |
| | Hebrews 11:29-12:2 | 1097 |

Time for Children

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|--------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| <u>*Hymn</u> | My Country, 'Tis of Thee | 529 |
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Sermon **“America in the Bible”** 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 Offering

| <u>*Response</u> | Praise God | Inside Front Cover |
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| *Hymn | America the Beautiful | 531 |
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*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

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

Financial Update:

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| Needed Weekly: \$2,345.90 | Needed to Date: \$70,376.89 |
| Rec'd 07-27-2025: \$2,780.00 | Rec'd to Date: \$72,721.36 |

Sunday: 08-03-2025 7th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship (*Nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd*)

Tuesday: 08-05-2025
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets in the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.

Thursday: 08-07-2025
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer meeting is at the Trinity Global Methodist Church; meet in the "Gate."

Sunday: 08-10-2025 8th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship with guest Pastor Harry Tolhurst
10:45 AM (*Nursery with Jeremy & Samantha Morris*)
Trustee Meeting

Announcements:

The **Vacation Bible School** theme title this year was: "Give with Your Heart: Serving Jesus by Serving Others!" This VBS taught kids that what matters most to God is not how much we give, but the heart behind our giving—and that when we help others, we are showing love directly to Jesus. The Mission for VBS was: The Haven of Hope Men's Homeless Shelter. We put together "Love Packages" for the homeless men. The VBS was **July 29 & July 30**. Thank you to all who volunteered, contributed, and assisted with the 2025 VBS!

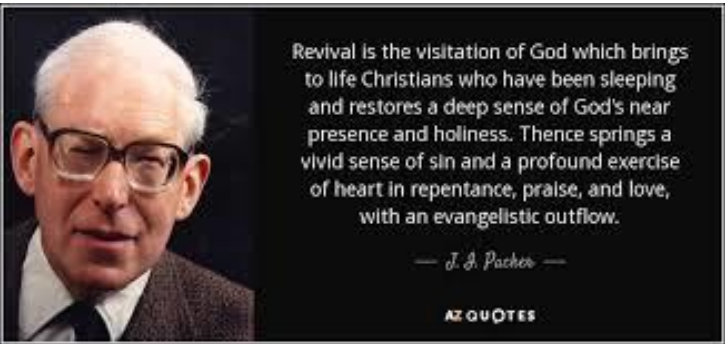
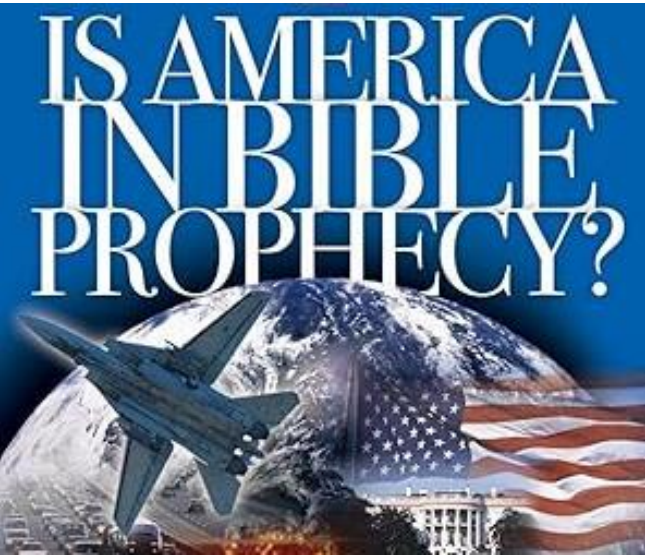
Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the food we collect for August is Mac & Cheese.

The **Venedocia Lions Club** is activating its yearly recruitment drive. Many Salem men belong to and support the organization. If you're interested, you're welcome to attend a meeting or visit VenedociaLions.org for more information. The next meetings are August 5th and 19th at 7 PM.

Please take photos and contribute updates, recipes, and ideas for the next **Salem newsletter**, "**Sounds of Salem**." Submit them to PastorTomEmery@live.com

Upcoming Birthdays

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 th Philip Eutsler | 4 th Don Owens | 6 th Brooke Coil |
| 6 th Kinsey Dearing | 9 th Denise Pugh | 10 th Lindsay Richards |



Isaiah 5:1-7 c.f. Matthew 21:33-41,43

Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894

www.SalemChurch.cc | 419-667-4142 Office

August 3, 2025

Prayer Concerns:

Allen Breece
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Bill Culver
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese
Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor)
Pete McCollow
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan’s daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh’s stepdad
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (leukemia)
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
“America in the Bible” Isaiah 5:1-7 (c.f. Matthew 21:33-41,43)
Salem Presbyterian Church
August 3, 2025

Since America became a nation, Bible scholars and students have wondered if America is mentioned anywhere in the Bible, particularly in the verses that cover end-time prophecies. I believe, based on world events and biblical prophecy, that we are entering the end times. All I can say in this brief talk is that, given our proximity to the end times, Jesus may be returning soon. So, we ask: Can America be found in the Bible? I'll give you an answer that is probably about as clear as mud – Yes and No.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – “Not physically,” if you are looking for a clear example or reference to the United States of America in Bible prophecy, you won't find it. There is no verse or reference that you can point to and “clearly” say that God is talking about the United States.

POINT TWO – “Yes, spiritually,” if you are looking at how spiritually connected the two nations, America and Israel, really are. What we can do is trace our spiritual heritage. America's spiritual heritage existed long before our physical nation ever did. Our Christian heritage can be traced back to Christ Himself. No other nation on earth can claim a richer Christian heritage than we can.

POINT THREE – Most scholars believe that the “nation” or people mentioned in Matthew 21:33-43 that Jesus is speaking about is the Church, the Body of Christ. When the workers in the vineyard killed the Son (whom we know as Jesus), the vineyard was given over to others. In doing so, God raised up Gentiles to carry the Gospel of Christ to the nations of the earth after Christ's death was approved by the religious Jews.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit (Matthew 21:43).

ACTION POINT

Isn't it interesting that America is the only nation that can claim to have been founded on Christian principles? It has spread the Gospel across the planet more than any other nation. We are also the only nation in the world that can trace its origins and prophetic patterns to Israel. I conjecture that America, the superpower, will not exist in the last days, because our work will be done, our spiritual privileges will be returned to Israel, and the Church will go home to meet its Savior in the air. Let us, in the meantime, pray for the revival of America. Let us take seriously our duties as Christians to spread the Gospel and to revive the Church.

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