

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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Pastoral Thoughts

Jesus gave practical lessons to help us understand the type of conviction we need to live a successful life of faith. Jesus told a parable to His followers:

⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins" (Luke 6:47-49 NLT).

Many of us were shocked by the recent tragic Texas news reports of the rising swift flood waters. The Camp Mystic, a Christian all-girls camp, is located along the banks of the Guadalupe River. The river rose more than 20 feet in less than two hours overnight into the July Fourth holiday.

That night, it housed about 750 campers on the flood-prone site as heavy rain water started pouring into the buildings during the night. Soon, the drowsy campers realized that the waters were not stopping, and nearby cars and splintered residences were being carried away by the waters. Even climbing onto rooftops was not enough for some. Twenty-seven girls and counselors from the camp died.

Jesus' Lordship removes our right to choose what we think is best for ourselves. Jesus is not giving the option of a take-it-or-leave-it offer. Further, He never promised that no flood would occur around us. Jesus is the rock that protects the foundation. Jesus is the rock, the sure foundation we can trust. He's worthy of digging deep with church attendance, Bible studies, and devotions, because our lives will be preserved if we obey Him and follow His authority. We need to truly call Him Lord. Our obedience is following His will, not ours.



Ask God to show you where you are refusing to give in to His authority. Ask Him for forgiveness and the strength to give up your will and to replace it with His will. Today, seek to truly make Him your Lord by being on His solid ground.

Pastor Tom Emery

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood,
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

Written by Edward Mote, [YouTube link](#)

Signs We Are in the End Times



The Bible speaks of the end of this world and a transition into the New Heaven and New Earth, a redemptive story where the end times and corruption of this world is first exposed in a destructive, dramatic fashion before the next world is fully realized.

Jesus tells us we won't know the day or the hour the world will end. At the same time, he gives us specific signs the end is coming soon. In the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24, he lists several end times events and calls these birth pangs like a woman in painful and intense labor. Yet there is a promise of a new life at the end. Let's examine seven events that will serve as signs of the end times and the last days of the earth.

1. Natural Disasters: In Matthew 24:7-8, Jesus speaks of earthquakes, famines, and pestilences as signs preceding His return. Throughout history, natural disasters have been interpreted by many Christians as indicators of the nearing end times, signaling God's judgment and the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Furthermore, the ongoing climate crisis and its associated impacts, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events, have heightened concerns about the relevance of biblical end-time prophecies. Many Christians interpret these environmental crises as signs of the earth "groaning" in anticipation of the return of Christ, as described in Romans 8:22. As natural disasters continue to occur with increasing frequency and severity, discussions about their significance in relation to biblical prophecy are likely to persist.

2. War and Conflicts: Jesus speaks of "wars and rumors of wars" in Matthew 24:6-7 as indicators of the

nearing end. Throughout history, these violent and tumultuous times have been viewed by many Christians as connected to biblical prophecies signaling a period of tribulation and unrest preceding the return of Christ. In modern times, the prevalence of wars and conflicts around the world has heightened concerns about their significance in relation to biblical end-time prophecies.

3. Famine and Disease: In Matthew 24:7, Jesus speaks of "famines and pestilences" as indicators of the coming end. Throughout the previous centuries, famine and disease outbreaks have been discussed by many Christians as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

In modern times, the prevalence of famine and disease outbreaks around the world has heightened concerns about their significance in relation to biblical end-time prophecies. Moreover, the emergence of new infectious diseases, antibiotic-resistant pathogens, and other public health threats has raised concerns about the potential for future pandemics and their role in biblical end-time scenarios.

4. Moral Decay: The apostle Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, mentions moral decay as a sign of the coming end, where people will be "lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

Today, examples of moral decay can be observed in various aspects of society, including the breakdown of traditional family structures, including high divorce rates, single-parent households, and declining marriage rates, reflecting a departure from biblical principles of marriage and family. Our culture has also experienced increasingly permissive attitudes towards sexuality, pornography, substance abuse, and other forms of immorality indicating a shift away from biblical morality and values.

The growing influence of secularism and relativism has led to a rejection of absolute truth and moral absolutes, resulting in moral relativism and the acceptance of diverse lifestyles and beliefs. Disrespect for authority, erosion of trust in institutions, and increasing polarization and division within society contribute to moral decay and societal unrest.

5. False Prophets: Back in Matthew 24, Jesus warns of false prophets who will arise during the last days and deceive many. Throughout Scripture, false prophets are depicted as individuals who claim to speak on



behalf of God but propagate deceitful teachings and lead people astray from the truth.

Some self-proclaimed Christian leaders like the local Way International promote a distorted version of the gospel that emphasizes material

wealth and financial prosperity as signs of God's favor. They often manipulate scripture to promote the idea that faithfulness to God leads to material success, exploiting vulnerable believers and perpetuating a message contrary to biblical teachings on humility, sacrifice, and stewardship.

Numerous cults and fringe religious movements have emerged throughout history, led by charismatic leaders who claim divine authority and offer exclusive access to spiritual truth. These groups often use manipulation, coercion, and isolation to control their followers and maintain power, leading to psychological and emotional harm. These have increased in the past century.

6. Persecution of Believers: Jesus cautions in Matthew 24:9-10 that during the last days, believers will be persecuted and hated because of their faith. Throughout the Bible, persecution is depicted as a hallmark of discipleship and a fulfillment of Jesus' words that "in this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33).

In areas of conflict or civil unrest, Christians are often targeted by armed groups or factions seeking to advance their political or ideological agendas. They may be subjected to attacks, bombings, or forced displacement, resulting in loss of life, property, and livelihoods.

7. False Christs: Finally, as the return of the Messiah nears, the Devil will bring more counterfeit versions. In Matthew 24:24, Jesus cautions that during the end times, many false messiahs will arise and deceive crowds of followers. False christs are individuals who claim to be the Messiah or Savior but promote deceitful teachings and lead people away from the true faith. False christs continue to emerge and seem to be occurring more in the past century.

Regarding the end times, the core teaching by Jesus and the writers of the New Testament points us to constant readiness. Even when we recognize the signs in the modern day, the end will come as a surprise. We must keep our lamps full of oil and lights lit, waiting for

the coming of Jesus and the coming redemption of all things.

Adapted from: 7 Signs We Are in the End Times, by Britt Mooney. ChristianityToday.com. Jul 21, 2025.

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 **6:30pm** (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.

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 \$70,376.89

Received to Date \$72,721.36

Sights of Salem

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) for 2025 theme title 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 dates were: July 29 & July 30, times: 9:00-11:30, and ages: 4 years old- 6th grade. The next photos show the activities.



Sign-ins



Pledges of Allegiance and Prayer time



Photo time and lessons and song times

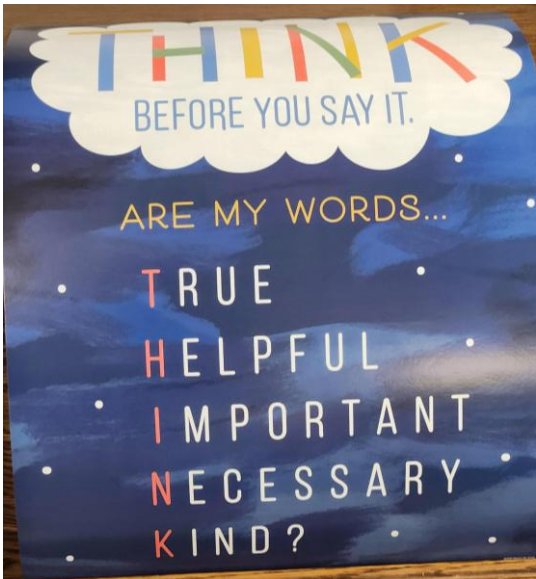


Stories and games





Friendship times and Bible lesson points



Mission Packages to Haven of Hope homeless shelter.



Goodbyes

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

Ellen Freisner

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

Marjorie Eutsler

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

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 family of John Smith and Carol Jean Sullins (daughter of Dwight and Marjorie Rhoades)

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

4 Philip Eutsler
4 Don Owens
6 Brooke Coil
6 Kinsey Dearing
9 Denise Pugh
10 Lindsay Richards
11 David Hobbs
19 Melia Richards
20 Austin Kimmet
22 Jan Jones
22 William McCollow
27 Barb Owens
30 Kelly Lloyd

Anniversaries

10 Tyler & Morgan McConnell
12 David & Carla Breese
17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
27 Tom & Carol Emery

Prayer Concerns

Allen Breece
Tom Burnett (tractor accident)
Bill Culver
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Charlie Good (prostrate 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)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

August 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 AM Worship	4	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	6	7 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 551 Center Street.	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship with guest Pastor Harry Tolhurst	11	12: 730 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	13	14 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 551 Center Street.	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker Tom Frey 10:45 Trustee Meeting	18	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	20	21 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 551 Center Street.	22	23
24 9:30 Worship	25	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.	27	28 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 551 Center Street.	29	30
31 9:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Gymanfa Ganu						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
Aug 3	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Lexi Greer
Aug 10	Jeremy & Samantha Morris	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Ronnie Miller
Aug 17	Todd & Jayne Morris	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Ronnie Miller
Aug 24	Liz Hobbs & Kim Coil		Becky Reichard
Aug 31	Michael & Lindsay Breese		Connie O'Neill
		Greeter:	Johnathon Morris

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



2025-07-31 Salem 2025 Vacation Bible School crafts

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

August 2025 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR C

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 3

Eccl. 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12
 Col. 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

9th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 10

Gen. 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22
 Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

10th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 17

Jer. 23:23-29 Psalm 82
 Heb. 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 24

Isa. 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8
 Heb. 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

12th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 31

Prov. 25:6-7 Psalm 112
 Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14