



**Sunday:** 10-12-2025 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Bill & Ruth Evans*)  
5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

**Tuesday:** 10-14-2025  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Trinity Global Methodist Church in Van Wert.  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study at Salem Church

**Thursday:** 10-16-2025  
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer meeting is at the Portal 2:20 Teen Center, 634 N. Washington Street.

**Sunday:** 10-19-2025 **19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30 AM Worship (*Nursery with Bob & Denise Pugh*)  
10:45 AM Session Meeting

**Announcements:**

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the items we collect for October are shampoo and conditioner.

There is a **sign up sheet** in the front vestibule to help teach Sunday School.

**All Saints Day** is a day of remembrance of the faithful people of God who have died in the past year. If you would like your friend or family member's name to be read during the service on November 2, please don't hesitate to contact Jen Pugh by October 26th.

The **Shoebox Project**—For the last 32 years, shoeboxes have been collected, filled with gifts, and delivered to children in need around the world. Please plan to fill a shoebox and give hope and joy to a precious child. Pamphlets and shoeboxes are in the prayer room. The collection day is Sunday, **November 16**.

Please take photos and contribute updates, recipes, and ideas for the next **Salem newsletter**, “**Sounds of Salem**.” Submit them to [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

**Upcoming Birthdays**

13 <sup>th</sup> David Breese	13 <sup>th</sup> Carter Dunlap	13 <sup>th</sup> Kayla Owens/Mumford
14 <sup>th</sup> Jason Kimmet	22 <sup>nd</sup> Ashley Finn	23 <sup>rd</sup> Remi Finn

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

21 <sup>st</sup> Bob & Kathy McCollow	30 <sup>th</sup> Kevin & Kristen Price
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***Salem Presbyterian Church***

*P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894*

*419-667-4142 Office, Text, and Voice Mail*

*October 12, 2025*

**Prayer Concerns:**

Allen Breece  
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)  
Jeff Coil (recovering from back surgery)  
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)  
Millie Fletcher  
Ellen Friesner  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)  
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese  
Elizabeth Holscher  
Mike Hyatt (thyroid cancer)  
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor)  
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)  
Loretta Williams (at the Manor recovering from a broken leg)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

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

**Condolences** to the family of Rachel Berelsman

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**Rev. Thomas Emery**  
**“A Godly Community” - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**  
**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**October 12, 2025**

The readings of the Lectionary this week remind us that wherever we are hemmed in and restricted, God is there in liberty. The prophet Jeremiah writes to the Jews in Babylon, instructing them to establish a residence in their new location and to pray for that town. Paul, in 2 Timothy, writes of his shackles as a life-giving and freeing involvement in the suffering and death of Christ Jesus. To the lepers who must keep their distance from everyone, Jesus speaks words of healing that eliminate the distance from them. However, we may be constrained, “the word of God is not chained,” and the prison cell of impossibility swings open (2 Timothy 2:9).

**TEACHING POINTS**

**POINT ONE** – *It is hard to believe that God is in control of everything.*

**POINT TWO** – *If you trust Him, God has a plan for your life that is better than what you can imagine.*

**POINT THREE** – *Basically, our deepest desire is God-filled serenity.*

**THIS WEEK’S VERSE**

*For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT).*

**ACTION POINT**

Like the exiles who first received Jeremiah's letter, we are understandably looking for a Word of peace. God's message to us is the same one that the refugees received: Get to work. Reach out actively and in love to others. Love both those who are easy to like because they are like us and those who are unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and unsettling to us. It is this kind of walk with God that we will find the peace that is promised. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. It is always there, in the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable and the unsettling, that we will find Christ and what we really want out of life.

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