

Salem United Church Of Christ
217 Salem Drive
Plymouth, WI 53073

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CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSION STATEMENT

To praise and glorify God through Jesus Christ, Salem United Church of Christ will be a nurturing family that shares the Good News with people of all ages. Our congregation will invite and warmly welcome others into this faith community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will create and maintain places and programs, which satisfy needs and nurture spiritual growth while recognizing and utilizing the diverse gifts and talents of all.

NOVEMBER 2017
Volume 67 No. 10

FIRST NOTES

Dear Friends,

As we turn our calendars and autumn winds toward winter, the month of November promises to be a busy and important one. It will be a month filled with meaningful worship opportunities and important decisions for this congregation.

On November 2nd, the Consistory will host another in a series of Membership Gatherings designed to facilitate ongoing conversations about timely and important topics in the life of our church.

Sunday, November 5th is All Saints' Sunday. During worship we will pause and remember all of our members who entered the church triumphant in the past year. Memorial gifts will be acknowledged and dedicated, as well.

Stewardship Sunday falls on November 12th. This is a time of discernment and commitment crucial to our ministries and to the personal faith development of our members.

Before you know it Thanksgiving will be here. As is our tradition, we will celebrate and worship on Thanksgiving Eve with our sisters and brothers at First Congregational UCC. We will also have the opportunity to meet their newly ordained and installed pastor, Rev. Kristal Klemme.

By months end, we will close out the liturgical year and begin preparation for the Advent season, which commences Sunday, December 3rd.

Add in all the regular monthly activities and we have ourselves a full calendar. There is, however, one more occasion to consider.

If you have been following the weekly financial updates in the bulletin on Sundays, you are aware of the substantial shortfall in our giving, relative to our 2017 budget. Such a serious shortfall impacts the ministries of the church in a very negative manner and certainly inhibits any hopes for meaningful change or growth.

In order to reduce this deficit to a more manageable level, church leadership has designated November 19th as Festival Sunday. As you know from past experience, on Festival Sunday (and Saturday), members are asked to faithfully and prayerfully give twice their regular offering.

Without question, joyful giving and extravagant generosity are hallmarks of a vibrant, faithful and forward-looking congregation. You have heard my strong convictions on this subject on numerous occasions.

This message is an important one, strong and true, but I'm afraid that I have been an ineffective messenger. So, I will not subject you to another of my narratives on this matter. What I will do, and what I probably should have done long ago, is step back and let God step in.

Humbly and faithfully, I urge each of us, over the next weeks, to spend time in prayer to discern God's call on our lives and what or who it is we worship.

By the way, we call it Festival Sunday as homage to our ancestors in faith, the Israelites. Shortly after the Ten Commandments, God instituted three Great Feasts to be celebrated by the Children of Abraham. One of the feasts was named The Festival of First Fruits, during which the first and the best of the spring wheat harvest was brought as an offering to God. It was a celebration of God's provision, a joyful acknowledgment that they belonged to God. It was faith and trust and gratitude lived out.

May it be so for us.

Faithfully,

Dale Miller



Birthdays

11/3 Josiah Gundersen
Kelly Wolfert
11/4 Jacob Koepsell
11/5 Vivian Meerstein
Ron Lee
Levi Flunker
11/6 Rachel Risse
11/7 Alyssia Kleinhans
Tabitha Huenink
11/10 Jill Pilling
Breeley Gutschow
11/12 James Lindow
Ian Schoenefeld
11/13 Justin Picard
Thomas Daigle
Eleanor Dees
11/14 Norbert Gumtow
Ronald Holzmann
Susie Katsma
Sharon Odekirk
Julie Sukowaty
Samantha Sippel
Alexandra Pilling
11/18 Linda Johnson
11/19 Gerald Klemme
11/20 Peter Jenquin
Marsha Meyer
11/21 Jeff Bender
Courtney Wolfert
11/22 Carl Holzer
Kim Pagel
11/23 Linda Krueger
Judy Paulson
Becky Gremminger
11/24 Wanda Meyer
11/26 Wesley Huibregtse
Lauren Bunyea

11/28 Vyra Thiel
11/29 Fritz Scheible
11/30 Todd Fischer
David Hengst
Judith Meerstein
Ashley Krueger

Anniversaries

11/4 Jeff & Mary Bender
Bret & Jennie Schoenefeld
11/5 Carl & Lori Holzer
11/6 Richard & Judy Rortvedt
Scott & Rhonda Raeder
Ed & Lynn York
11/12 Scott & Pam Miller
11/15 Tom & Ruth Miller
11/22 Gerald & Donna Picard



Don't forget, Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th.

LITTLE LAMBS CHILD CARE

Sunday, November 5th:

8:30 a.m. Jennifer & Hannah Velier

Sunday, November 12th:

8:30 a.m. Susie Katsma & Janice Miller

Sunday, November 19th:

8:30 a.m. Linda Lehrke

Sunday, November 26th:

8:30 a.m. Amy & Greta Debbink



Thank you for allowing us to use your facilities for our annual salad luncheon. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

In appreciation,
Women's Civic Society Salad Luncheon
Committee



I want to thank all my Salem friends for the cards, prayers and good wishes during my recent hospitalization and convalescing. Thank you for the care meal you sent us. God bless you and keep you in His care.

Joanne Lammers

MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

All members of Salem are invited and encouraged to join in a Membership Gathering on Thursday, November 2, beginning at 6:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. Consistory members will be hosting this event and serving refreshments. We will continue conversations about important topics in the life of our church. Discussions will include proposed changes to the By-Laws regarding Membership; Stewardship; Festival Sunday; follow-up on Mission & Ministry Fair; upcoming activities and other topics. The evening is designed to be an informational forum with opportunity for questions and answers. We hope you will be able to attend. Your participation is greatly appreciated and valued. If you are unable to attend, but would like to discuss these or other topics, please contact Mary Bender or another Consistory member. Thank you. Peace and blessings be with you!

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Endowment Committee met on October 17th and the following grants were approved:

Existing Ministry and Church Life:

- Welcome Table: \$ 750.00
- Back Bay Mission: \$ 1,000.00
- Hurricane Relief: \$150.00
- Sunshine Circle: \$ 500.00

Innovative Ministries:

- Presbyterian Church of Malawi: \$ 650.00
- Sr. Youth - Feed My Starving Children -
Chicago Mission: \$ 850.00
- Habitat for Humanity / Heather Russell
Home: \$ 300.00

Capital Assets or Improvements:

- Zoar Cemetery: \$1,000.00
- Chair Cart: \$ 300.00
- Back Door Repair: \$500.00

Money from the Endowment should be received and ready for distribution by early November.



On Monday, November 13th at 7 p.m. the Mission House Lecture will feature the Honorable Reverend Everett Mitchell, a circuit court judge in Dane County and pastor at Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Madison. His talk will explore how student organizations and churches can become more than social clubs, and instead be living, sacrificing witnesses to the dignity and worth of all persons. (Some of you may have heard Rev. Mitchell speak at the Wisconsin UCC Annual Meeting in June.) This event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Bradley Fine Arts Auditorium.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE . . .

GOUT

Signs and Symptoms – Severe pain that strikes suddenly in a single joint, often at the base of your big toe, accompanied by swelling and redness.

Also called crystal-induced arthritis, gout occurs when uric acid crystals accumulate in the affected joint. Some uric acid is derived from a food substance in the diet known as purines, but the greater part is produced by our bodies daily. If you have gout, you lose the normal balance: your body produces too much uric acid or too little is excreted. When the amount of uric acid in your blood and body fluids increases, uric acid in the fluid around the joints (synovial fluid) forms crystals and gout results, typically in the joint at the base of your big toe.

Ninety percent of persons with gout are men older than 40; 1 in 4 has a family history of the ailment. Gout has long had a reputation as an illness that results from the excessive consumption of food and drink, which may be true, but gout also can strike at any time and for no apparent reason. People who are obese or who suffer from hypertension may be at greater risk for crystal-induced arthritis. The stress of an injury such as a fracture or a surgical procedure may provoke an attack. Thiazide diuretics, a common treatment for high blood pressure that reduces the water content of the body, may raise uric acid levels in the blood and provoke gout in the susceptible person.

Diagnosis – An episode of gout begins within a matter of hours. A joint that seemed entirely normal will become intensely painful, red and swollen. The joint will remain very painful for several days. The discomfort will subside gradually over the next 1 to 2 weeks, leaving the joint apparently normal and pain-free. Even though the joint at the base of the great toe is involved most frequently, gout can affect other joints in the feet, ankles, knees, hands and wrists.

To confirm the diagnosis, your physician may withdraw some fluid from the affected joint to look for crystals of uric acid within the white blood cells. Your physician also may do blood tests for levels of uric acid; but the tests can be misleading, because the levels may be nearly normal during an acute attack of gout. In addition, many people with high levels of uric acid never experience an attack of crystal-induced arthritis.

Sometimes, a long-term accumulation of uric acid may produce lumps, called tophi, just beneath the skin. The most common site is the cartilage of the ear. Infrequently, kidney stones may result from the build-up of uric acid.

What is Pseudogout? Pseudogout is a related ailment that involves the deposit of crystals of a calcium salt rather than uric acid in the joints. The affected joints are more likely to be knees, wrists and ankles than those of the foot. Pseudogout strikes women and men with roughly equal frequency, but the age at onset is late, typically 70 years. The ailment is also known as calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate crystal deposition disease.

How serious is Gout? Your physician can treat an acute attack effectively and prevent future attacks by giving you maintenance medication. After an attack has run its course (generally a matter of days and no more than a few weeks), the affected joint usually returns to normal. If you do not receive proper treatment, however, joint damage can be permanent and uric acid deposits may cause kidney problems or even stones.

Treatment – Colchicine, in use for centuries, is still valuable for acute attacks of gout. Indomethacin is also used for acute attacks. Between attacks your physician may use other drugs, including probenecid and allopurinol, to control the levels of uric acid in your body.

Physicians usually treat pseudogout with anti-inflammatory drugs, although colchicine is effective in some cases.

Although physicians no longer consider food and drink the main cause of gout, avoid excessive consumption of alcohol, maintain your weight within reasonable limits, and avoid foods that contain purines if you have gout. Purine-rich foods include sardines, anchovies, sweetbreads, liver and kidney. Remember attempts at rapid weight reduction may provoke an acute attack.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP

Over the past year or so, the leadership of Salem has given prayerful consideration to what it would mean to become a church that is more concerned about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and less concerned about maintaining all of the trappings of church business that can sometimes get in the way of ministry. We've given a great deal of thought to those things that could help us be more faithful and effective as a congregation.

The process of keeping records for attendance, communion, giving and then monitoring the lists and sending out notices to persons who have may not have met the requirements seems to consume a fair amount of time and energy and doesn't appear to encourage people to be more faithful in their discipleship. It seemed to us that there had to be a better way to handle the process.

In the weeks ahead, we will be sharing suggested changes to the By-Laws that relate to church membership. Instead of policing the membership rolls as we have, we propose a new process where members of our church are asked to give serious thought to what church membership means to them. Please join the Consistory at the **Membership Gathering on Thursday, November 2**, beginning at 6:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall as we **begin to discuss these proposed changes**.

There will be a number of opportunities to share concerns and feedback about the

proposed changes in the weeks ahead, and any changes would have to be amended by a congregational vote. A congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at 9:45 am for this purpose. We thank you for your participation in this process and ask that you would give the proposals some prayerful thought as they are unveiled in the weeks ahead. – *Salem's Church and Ministry Team*

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, November 5, 2017 -
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hebrew Scripture: Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 12, 2017 -
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hebrew Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm: Psalm 78:1-7
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 19, 2017 -
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hebrew Scripture: Judges 4:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 123
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Thursday, November 23, 2017
Thanksgiving
Hebrew Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm: Psalm 65
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 26, 2017
Reign of Christ
Hebrew Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm: Psalm 100
Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

We are heading into the last months of the year, and Stewardship Sunday is coming up on November 12. You will be seeing materials in your mail, soon. Please consider the messages from the pulpit as you prepare to respond.

Over the past weeks our scripture messages have been coming from the book of Matthew, and often they have focused on what being a Christian means, relative to sharing gifts - not only financial, but gifts of the spirit as well - knowledge, wisdom, and faith are key. Also important are the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

So far this year our gifts have raised more than \$1800 for hurricane relief, \$ 546 for SCIO, \$895 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$ 595 for Neighbors in Need. We are a generous congregation, and we still find ourselves falling short of our goal for OCWM having raised \$10,549 of our \$15,000 goal. And, of course, our General Fund falls short of meeting our full operational needs.

As we head into the season of Thanksgiving, please consider the gifts you've received. Ask yourself what you would do for the love of God, and prayerfully consider not only how you can respond financially, but also with the gifts of the spirit and the fruits of the spirit. How might those gifts help Salem church in their wider mission in the community and in ministries within the church.

Thank you.



Marsha Meyer has a new email address: marsha@salemuccplywi.org. Please update your records.

KEEP THESE FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZED

Aurora Memorial, Sheboygan
Ross Bub, Joanne Lammers

St. Nicholas, Sheboygan
Janice Miller

DEATH

10/18 Leander Selk

WEDDINGS

9/30 Spencer Hansen* & Katie Curtiss*

10/7 Brad Uttech* & Jennifer Bubb

*denotes non-member



Salem UCC will be hosting a living nativity on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. A living nativity is a reenactment of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. There will be a program of scripture and music, which will accompany live animals, and the costumed characters of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Herod, wise men and angels. Refreshments will be served in the Gathering Area. In the spirit of Christmas, please bring a food item which will be donated to the Plymouth Food Pantry.

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands that I still possess.

— Martin Luther

NOVEMBER USHER LIST

Saturday, November 4th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Consistory Member, Ken Schoening,
Roger Rortvedt

Sunday, November 5th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Terry Risse
Norman & Karen Raeder, Cheryl Rortvedt

Saturday, November 11th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Ray & Robbie Gremminger, Richard Groene

Sunday, November 12th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Amy Nischik
Paul & Susan Clarke, Betty Klemme

Saturday, November 18th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lorena McKerrow
Gerry & Reta Klemme, Sharon Klemme

Sunday, November 19th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Linda Bosman
Terry, Amy & Greta Debbink

Saturday, November 25th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Ed & Darla Ardell, Shelley Bubb

Sunday, November 26th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: David Hengst
Scott Miller, Ansel Tupper, Janice Bunyea

Saturday, December 2nd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Linda Krueger, Bob Becher, Roger Rortvedt

Sunday, December 3rd:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Bret Schoenefeld
Marvin & Judy Paulson, Bette Humbracht

Thankful TREE

Make this Thanksgiving decoration and keepsake as a reminder of God's many blessings.

What you need:

- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- White cardstock (8" x 11")
- Baby wipes or wet paper towels
- 8" x 11" frame (available at dollar stores)
- Black permanent marker
- Bowls or paper plates

What you do:

1. Paint your palm, fingers, wrist and a portion of your arm with brown paint.
2. With the white cardstock placed vertically, press down your painted hand and arm. The print should resemble a tree trunk and branches.
3. Clean your hand and arm with baby wipes or wet paper towels.
4. Dip your fingertips into different-colored paints and press them onto the paper to make leaves. (It's autumn, so leaves can be falling!)
5. When paint is dry, write "thankful" down the trunk with permanent marker. Also write your name and the year in the corner.
6. Frame and display your decoration.