



SALEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHAPEL CHIMES NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

FIRST NOTES

Another month is behind us and a short time remains ahead of us before we resume in-person worship on a limited basis. By now, you should have received a letter of explanation on that resumption which includes detailed instructions on sending in RSVPs; where, when, and how to enter the church; seating in the church; and how we will exit from the church, among other things. Again, it may seem like a lot of preparation and precaution (and a lot of work went into that process, I might add), but we consulted representatives of the wider church, our local county health officials, and our insurance company before setting these procedures up. What we've established meets the standard of being as safe as possible and as prudent as possible.

It is one step in a process. In the meantime, I will continue to ask for your understanding, patience, and kindness as we move into this next phase. We know much more about the virus than we did in March, but there is still much that we are learning about how to respond to it. Some people are not ready for in-person worship at this time; others are. Each one must decide for themselves in this matter. One size does **not** fit all.

We are also pleased that we are able to schedule a service of Confirmation for Sunday, August 16th, at 2:00 p.m. The completion of that step was one large piece of unfinished business from March and it is good to have a plan in place for doing so. Worship will be held outside for that service, which should give us more latitude on how many we can seat and what we can do in worship. (This will be a service open to the church community, I might add).

Other matters, such as how church school and Confirmation will be handled this fall are still being worked through.

As for whatever else will happen in the weeks and months ahead, that is in God's hands. I don't know what the future may hold, but I trust the One who holds it. That will have to be enough for now.

And again, if you have questions, concerns, or find yourself in a crisis situation, please do not hesitate to contact the church office by phone 920.892.7456 or e-mail (churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org) or phone me directly (920.838.0405).

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm: Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Epistle: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

Epistle: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm: Psalm 133

Epistle: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm: Psalm 124

Epistle: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30, 2020


Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28



Youth & Family Ministries News

Dear friends,

As the summer continues to fly by, I find myself torn between longing for life to return to normal and the blessings that this different pace of life has had to offer. Usually, I spend the summer taking intentional time to plan and prepare for our upcoming program year and this summer is no different. The trouble is that this pandemic leaves us with very little room to make plans. With schools uncertain which direction they will move into when fall arrives, our faith formation programming is also up in the air, so to speak.

Our classrooms at Salem are set up and ready to go as soon as it has been deemed responsible and safe to do so. In the meantime, I have spent a great deal of time researching public health advisories, latest studies on safety and seeking guidance from colleagues as to how and when we can resume in-person faith formation ministries at Salem.

At this time, there is no clear path. We will continue to monitor the caseload at the county level and continue to adhere to the guidelines put forth by public health officials and our insurance company. In the meantime, we will continue to gather in the ways that are available to us to faithfully serve, learn and grow together as a community of faith.

I welcome conversation and perspectives from our families regarding their comfort level going forward. A survey will be sent to families after the local school districts have determined their course of action for the 2020-2021 school year.

Peace and love,
Marsha



Driveway Diversions

July 29

Families are invited to sign up for time slots on the dates above for a driveway diversion for their kids! and Marsha will come out to your house and engage the kids' attention with some no contact outdoor games and activities for 45 minutes.

Sign up by clicking the link below ↓

[Driveway Diversions Signup](#)

Join us for an outdoor movie night!
Friday, August 21
parking begins at 8:30pm, movie starts at 9pm
Bring your own snacks & refreshments

**DRIVE-IN THEATRE
AT SALEM**

showing
The Call of the Wild
rated PC

We ask that all of our guests be conscientious and considerate of their neighbors and practice physical distancing.



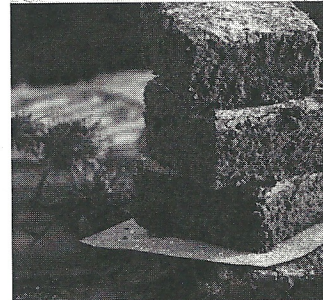
DRIVE THRU BRAT FRY



Sunday, Aug 9
10:30am-2pm
at Salem UCC
217 Salem Drive
Plymouth



Serving: grilled brats, hamburgers, grilled cheese, german potato salad, baked beans, chips, homemade brownies and cookies, soda and bottled water



**Call ahead with your
order
892-7456
or come through the
drive thru**

Proceeds to benefit: St Matthew Lutheran Church in Monrovia, Liberia to help them install solar power.

Acolyte Ministry

At this time our acolyte schedule is suspended. You will be notified when we plan to resume having acolytes serve during in person worship.

CONFIRMATION

An orientation is planned for Wednesday, August 26 at 6:30pm for incoming Confirmation students. At this time we are uncertain if that orientation will take place at the church building or online on Zoom.

Students entering 7th grade this fall are eligible to begin Confirmation classes. To ensure that your household receives communications regarding confirmation, please contact the church office to update your contact information.

churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org

or

920-892-7456



Join us as we celebrate

The Rite of Confirmation

at Salem United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 16th
at 2pm

in an outdoor service of worship to allow for physical distancing

Faith
is not hoping
God can
it is knowing
He Will



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/05 Joseph Ausloos
8/10 Liza Wilson
8/11 Kymn Schicker
Olivia Titel
8/12 Mariann Picard
Judy Kent
Peter Meyer
8/13 Joshua Bender
8/14 Betty Nohlquist
8/16 Pat Wachter
8/18 Charlene Boll
Peggy Ellis
Brynn Quade
8/19 James Wachter
Tim Miller
8/20 Lois Faas
8/21 Kyle Odekirk
Barb Webb
8/22 Katherine Fischer
Aubrey Fischer
Zack Schwantes
8/24 Jason Knuth
8/25 Kally Pratt
8/26 Lorayn Vick
8/27 Margaret Johnston
Chase Markus
8/28 Taylor Knuth
8/30 Marvin Paulson
Austin Hartmann
Jody Pratt
8/31 Roger Eldredge

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/1 Scott & Annette Bunyea
8/5 Jay & Peggy Ellis
8/8 Bill & LaVerne Eickberg
8/10 Brian & Kim Pagel
8/11 Peter & Lynell Jenquin
8/12 Mark & Janice Miller
8/15 Ralph & Carol Groene
8/21 Brandon & Andrea Gutschow
Marvin & Judy Paulson
Jarred & Jenny Velier
8/22 Claude & Judy Kent
8/23 Rollie & Kathy Bruggink
8/24 Wade & Gail Kleinhans
Ted & Diane Kaczmarski
8/26 Don & Laura Diver
8/31 Robert & Eileen Metze

KEEP THESE FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Hospitalized

Laurie Born
Gloria Eldredge
Mark Miller
Maureen Greuel

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have prayers you would like included in worship, please contact the church office or add your concerns in the comments section of our live stream worship. Prayers can also be submitted to our Prayer Chain Group. If you would like to be added to our Prayer Chain Group, simply call the church office.

Have
Faith
in
GOD



CHURCH ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If there is something that you need assistance with (groceries, prescriptions, errands, etc.) please reach out to the church and we will find a way to help.

The Church Office (920-892-7456, churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org)

Rev Jim Hoppert, pastor (920-838-0405, pastorjim@salemuccplywi.org)

Marsha Meyer, director of youth & family ministries (920-838-1466, marsha@salemuccplywi.org)

Robbie Gremminger, parish nurse (920-980-3977)

TABLETS AVAILABLE FOR HOMEBOUND & PEOPLE WITHOUT INTERNET

The special gifts team has granted funds to allow the church to purchase tablets that our worship services can be loaded onto and delivered to those in our church family who do not have access to the internet or television broadcasts so that they can view our worship services. The devices will then be delivered to the homes of the people who have requested them with our current worship service ready to view. When you have finished viewing worship, simply call to have the tablet picked up for the next person to use. (We do have the ability to sanitize the tablets between users.) If you or someone you know would appreciate viewing worship this way, please contact me (Marsha 838-1466) or the church office (892-7456) to make arrangements.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM – PROPERTY

While many things have been on hold in our lives and we have not used the church much for in-person activities, some items still require attention and a group of dedicated individuals have helped address these needs. Spring cleanup, tree removal, storm damage cleanup, weeding and transplanting beds, stump removal, lawn mowing, planting and seeding, watering, seasonal furnace/air exchange filter replacement and sign painting have all been completed when needed. Superior Lawn and Garden re-worked the beds and plantings at the West entrance. The East entrance has also been cleaned up and re-worked by volunteers with new and transplanted perennials, annuals and an ornamental weeping cherry tree.

I want to thank Jeff and Mary Bender, Andy Hartmann, Wes and Cyndi Huibregtse, Evelyn Kretsch, Bette Klemme, Terry Debbink, Ed Ardell, Ron Schoenfeld, Kay Scheible, Faye Hughes and Jim LeMahieu for helping at various times. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. If I have, please let me know. We certainly appreciate everyone's contribution.

The coronavirus has prevented us from gathering to organize work, so much has been done with last minute phone calls, by word of mouth or individual initiative. One thing we would like to do as part of the Administrative Team is to organize contacts and leaders so we can better recruit help and coordinate activities.

We are looking for several people who are willing to serve as team leaders either for indoor and building related issues or outdoor (yard and property) issues. This is not necessarily to perform the work but to be knowledgeable about either of the areas of property and serve as a contact who can coordinate work with either volunteers or professionals. The goal is to have several people in each area so they can help each other and provide a contact even if someone is unavailable for reasons of work, schedule, vacation etc.

Tom Daigle is the overall contact for the Administrative Team but Ed Ardell and I have served as contacts for specific property issues. We would like to add several more individuals as leaders. Ed is very well versed on the building and facilities (heating, A/C, plumbing, lighting, utilities). We would like to pass on some of that knowledge to several others so more people are aware of how the basic building operations (heat, A/C, thermostats, seasonal maintenance) work. There is a group of people, already in place, who have provided expertise and help if technology issues arise. The work this group has initiated in the last several years has been a godsend to allow church activities to continue remotely during the pandemic.

Both Ed and I have been involved in outdoor property care as well but could use some support in that area. Once leaders are in place, we will also be looking for people willing to help work on building and property projects as they arise and personal schedules allow. If you are willing to help as a team leader for facilities or property, please contact Tom, Ed, myself or the church office.

Terry Risse

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT ON CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Due to cancellations caused by the Coronavirus, we are still waiting to schedule a congregational meeting. We will continue to publish information on the meeting's purpose for the time when we will be able to gather again as a group.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – CONSTITUTION

The Consistory has called for a **Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of amending Salem's Constitution** (addition of Article X, as described below). **If the proposed amendment is approved, a motion to suspend portions of the Constitution will also be considered at the same meeting.** The portions of the Constitution being considered for suspension deal with size and elections of the Consistory and Officers of the Congregation. It will allow us to try a different approach to how we structure and manage church activities and mission and test it before we decide whether to change the By-laws or Constitution. **Copies of the existing Constitution with highlights and notes explaining the proposed changes are available. You may contact the office to request an email copy. If you are not able to accept email, the office can mail you a hardcopy version.** The proposed text of the amendment follows:

Article X. SUSPENSION OF ARTICLES

Section 1. Any Article(s), Section(s) or Subsection(s) of the Constitution may be suspended for a period not to exceed one year, if approved by a two-thirds majority.

Section 2. The suspension of any Article(s), Section(s) or Subsection(s) may be continued (for the same or a different period of time), provided it is approved by a two-thirds majority, at a meeting as specified in the By-laws. If the period of suspension lapses without further action, the Constitution will revert to the language of the original Article(s), Section(s) or Subsection(s).

Section 3. The membership shall be informed of any meeting as specified in the By-laws.

Join us for Worship

Live Stream on [Facebook](#) on Sundays at 8:30am

(You do not need a Facebook account to view worship on our page and to see content there)

Worship is also posted to our [YouTube](#) page on Sunday afternoons

(Worship can also be accessed by going to our website saalemuccplywi.org by clicking on online worship)

For those without internet access,

you can call in on the phone to listen to worship by calling toll free: 888-958-7272

there is an access code that needs to be entered and it changes weekly

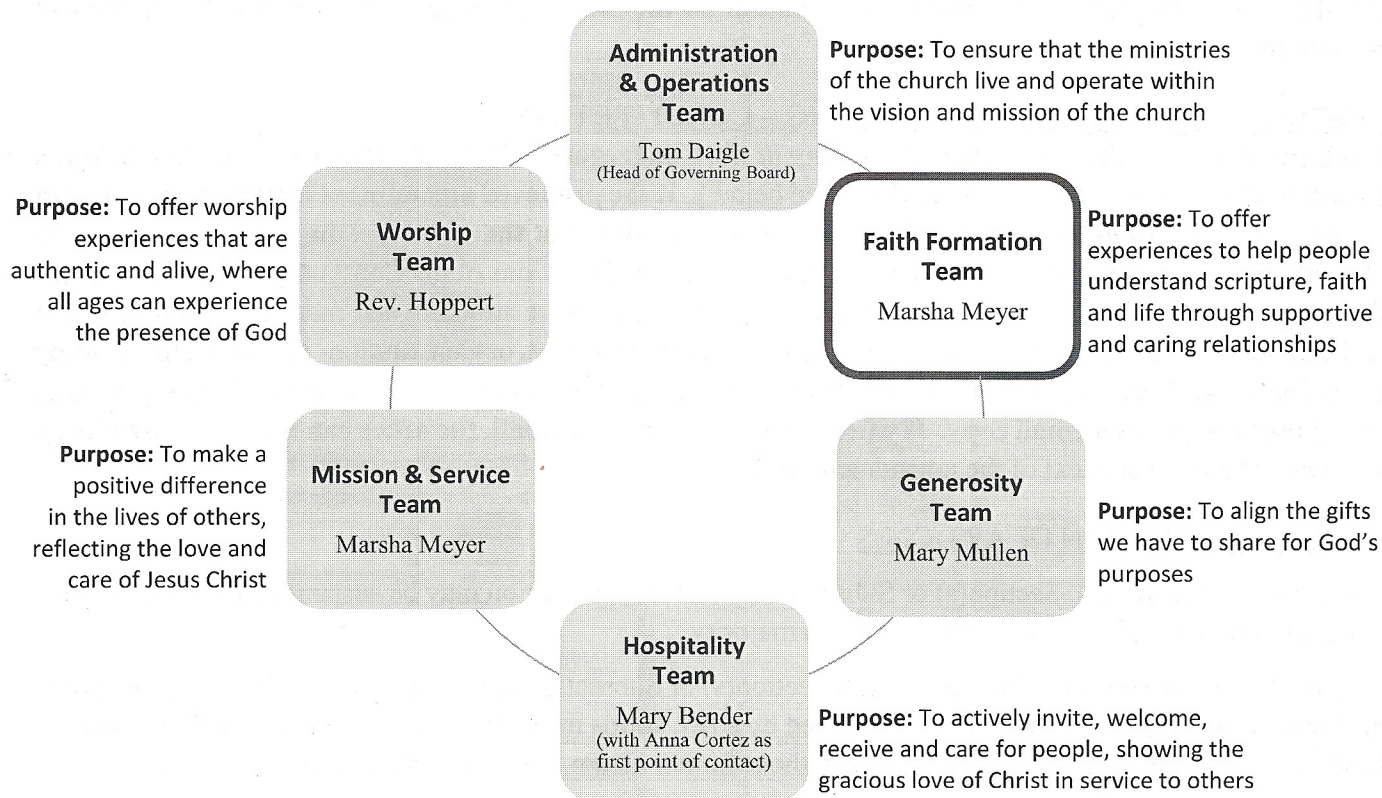
(Updated codes will be included in our weekly worship bulletins or by contacting the church office)

Our weekly worship services will continue to be available on:

TV14 on Wednesdays at 5pm and on the radio 1420am on Sundays at 9am.

MINISTRY TEAMS TAKING SHAPE IN NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL: August Focus – Faith Formation Team

Salem’s Governance Restructuring Team is pleased to share a diagram which shows how each ministry team is in relationship with the others – all working together for the love of God and all within God’s creation. The purpose and leader are listed for each of the ministry teams. Month-by-month, we focus on one of our six ministry teams...



The purpose of the **Faith Formation Team** is to offer experiences to help people understand scripture, faith and life through supportive and caring relationships within the vision and mission of the church. Through worship, educational experiences, mission and service to others we have the opportunity to grow in faith. We understand that faith development spans a lifetime and our ministry team seeks to offer opportunities for people to experience spiritual growth as their faith moves, grows, changes and matures. We recognize that as a community of faith our faith formation is also relational and requires cultivation in community to learn with others. When we do so we discover our doubts, questions, temptations, and missteps are not unusual, but are part of the journey. We are emboldened to new ways of thinking about God and to new ways of exercising our faith in daily life when we are challenged by and in the presence of others through the practice of love. We aim to:

- Offer faith formation opportunities for people of all ages, interests, and faith experiences to learn in community.
- Offer opportunities for building relationships and constantly offer new possibilities for people to engage Christ by engaging one another.

Recognizing the importance of learning what our gifts are and understanding that we all have something to offer, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you may contribute to our faith formation ministry team. If you have interest in participating and/or wish to learn more about any of our ministry teams. Please watch for bulletin announcements, Chapel Chimes articles and other communications for opportunities to take part; and join us next month for a focus on Salem’s Generosity Team.

On behalf of the Governance Restructuring Team, we thank you for your continued prayers and support of Salem’s Ministry Teams! – Marsha Meyer, Terry Risse & Mary Bender

FROM THE PARISH NURSE....

BY: ROBBIE GREMMINGER

The Parish Nurse found this article on "Medscape" and its worth reading.

PTSD FROM COVID: THE AFTERSHOCK NO ONE TALKS ABOUT

JULY 07, 2020

By Billy Rhoton, as told to Stephanie Watson

It seems like COVID-19 is all anyone is talking about. And with good reason. So many stories about those who died from it. So many stories about those who were sick and survived. But no one is talking about what the survivors face on the others side of COVID, so I'd like to tell you my story.

It should have been a great day. I was on my way to my first day at my new job. I went back to college in my late 30's to learn architectural drawing -- 3D modeling and drafting -- and I had just gotten a job doing exactly that for a small design/build shop in Atlanta. I didn't sleep too well because I was excited and a bit nervous.

I'll never forget the date, March 19, because it was my father's birthday. I called him from the car on my way to my first day. I asked how he was doing, and he said he felt great. He asked me the same. I replied that everything felt as good as ever. I was lying.

I thought it was nerves. Anxiety. Something. I packed a lunch, but I didn't feel like eating it. I wondered if they always kept the office this warm.

My girlfriend came over for a celebratory dinner. We got food from the neighborhood restaurant up the block. We opened a bottle of wine. All my hard work was paying off.

"Does this wine taste off to you?", I asked. She said no. We sat down to eat. "I think there's something wrong with my food." I wasn't hungry anyway. We hung out for a while and then said goodnight because she had an early morning. She went home.

I woke up in the middle of the night, just cooking with fever. I'd been reading horror stories from places like Seattle and NYC. People just like me, healthy, relatively young (I'll be 42 next month) people just dropping dead. I was immediately terrified. I think some part of me knew.

I Can't Shake It

The next morning, I had to call in sick to my brand-new job. I had a fever and a headache. My girlfriend had gone

home. I was alone with the virus. Little did I know what I was in for.

I called my doctor. He prescribed a strong migraine medicine for my headache. The pain just wouldn't budge. I couldn't do anything to shake it.

Days. Days upon days. My fever would go up during the day, come down overnight. Until one day it just parked itself at around 103. I called my doctor. There were no tests available. I was given a "presumed positive" diagnosis, and was told that if I could stand to let the fever do its job, then I should try and let it cook itself out. My headache persisted. Always with the headache.

I had zero energy and no appetite. I was wiped out. The slightest activity took everything I had. I should mention here that I have a dog (his name is Cyclone), and I still had to get him outside several times a day. Five minutes of dog time would require five hours of recovery time for me. I was out of gas. And I was alone. I was alone and no one could help me.

Farewell

I don't know exactly how many days passed, but I found myself on the couch one evening almost completely unable to breathe. I just couldn't get the air I needed into my lungs. I think that if I had been able to get one good breath then I would have felt so much better. But it wouldn't happen.

A started conversation in my head --

"It's time to go to the hospital." "NOW!" "Call 911, we're dying."

"If I go to the hospital, am I gonna come home?" "Probably not."

I had read so many stories about people being put on ventilators and never coming back.

So I asked myself, do I die alone in a cold hospital bed or do I just do it here at home? I picked up my phone. I dialed 911. I never pressed SEND.

I closed my eyes, and in my mind, I said goodbye. I said goodbye to my friends. I said goodbye to my girlfriend. I said goodbye to my family. I said goodbye to my 10-year-old son and my 8-year-old daughter. I remember hoping that they would be ok without me. I closed my eyes.

Coming Back

At some point, I must have fallen asleep. I drifted in and out of sleep for the next day or two.

My fever would break in the night, only to creep back up during the day. This happened for three or four days in a row.

And the headache never stopped.

One night the fever broke, and it didn't come back. At some point I realized that my headache was gone too.

Slowly, I began to feel better. Not like myself, but better. After a couple of symptom-free weeks, I was able to see my children and my girlfriend again. I was able to start working from home at my new job.

All I could think was, "Holy s\$#t, I made it!" I was really just so happy to be here. I was feeling better, and it was springtime in Atlanta (nothing is better than springtime in Atlanta). Everything was gonna be ok.

Changes

It took a long time for me to begin to notice the changes in myself. Normally, I'm a really outgoing person. I enjoy being in the company of others. I laugh a lot.

But I know that the me writing this isn't the same me who got sick. I'm withdrawn. Distant. "Sometimes I don't know where you are when you're sitting right next to me," my girlfriend wrote me in an email when I asked what changes she noticed in me.

And she's right. I'm so easily agitated now. Irritable. Everything seems so loud. Nothing seems possible. Or

worth the effort. I have trouble focusing. I can't maintain a conversation. I get headaches. I have panic attacks. I'm coming apart. This is the part that no one talks about. I cry over music. I cry at television. I can't sleep. I'm so tired. I self-medicate.

And I can't get away from thinking about COVID-19. Every time I put on a mask to go to the grocery store, there it is. Every time I try to relax on the couch where I decided it was ok to go, I have to get up and walk around. It's all right there, in my face. And it's all too much. This is the part that no one talks about.

I think that the worst part for me is knowing that I was ok with letting go and not being here anymore. Having gotten ok with dying makes living difficult.

My friends tell me, "O, man, we really care about you." Well, I don't really care about me right now. I don't care about them. I don't care about much.

My therapist says I have PTSD.

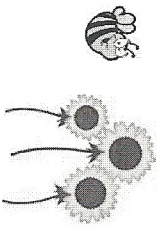
What Now?

The first and biggest step has been to recognize that this is going on with me. I just didn't see it for a long time. I'm trying to be more mindful of what is happening with me, both internally and externally.

I've started taking an antidepressant. I've been trying to get more exercise outside. I'm riding my bicycle, and Cyclone and I have doubled up on our walks. We're up to almost four miles a day.

This experience has been awful. One thousand percent awful. But I've had an outpouring of love and support from my family and friends. Just acknowledging and recognizing what's going on with me, talking about it, has helped a lot. Once I could see it for what it is and call it by its name, that made a big difference.

I have good days, and I have bad days. Sometimes I have several of each in the course of 24 hours. But I'm going to get better. I have to believe that I will.



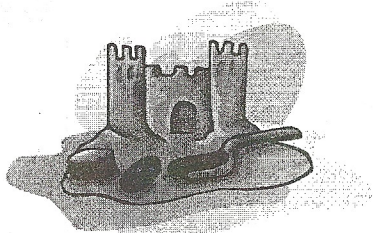
AUGUST 2020

Salem United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* All items on the calendar are subject to change due to the public health mandate until further notice.						
2 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LIVE STREAM: 8:30 AM Worship on Facebook 10:30 AM In-Person Worship 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	3 9:00 AM Men's Coffee	4 7:00 PM NA Bulletin Articles Deadline				
9 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LIVE STREAM: 8:30 AM Communion Worship on FB 10:30 AM In-Person Worship 10:30 AM Drive Thru Bray Fry 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	10 9:00 AM Men's Coffee	11 6:30 PM Consistory Meeting 7:00 PM NA Bulletin Articles Deadline				
16 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LIVE STREAM: 8:30 AM Worship on Facebook 10:30 AM In-Person Worship 2:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	17 9:00 AM Men's Coffee	18 4:30 PM Salem Green Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM Special Gifts Meeting 7:00 PM NA Bulletin Articles Deadline				
23 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LIVE STREAM: 8:30 AM Worship on Facebook 10:30 AM In-Person Worship 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	24 9:00 AM Men's Coffee	25 7:00 PM NA Bulletin Articles Deadline				
30 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LIVE STREAM: 8:30 AM Worship on Facebook 10:30 AM In-Person Worship 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	31 9:00 AM Men's Coffee					
			26 6:30 PM Confirmation Orientation			
					21 8:00 PM NA Drive in Movie: 8:30 PM Parking Begins 9:00 PM Movie Begins Newsletter Article Deadline	
						22 8:00 PM NA Chapel Chimes Newsletter Available

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



AUGUST 2020

PASTOR: Rev. James M. Hoppert
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY: Marsha Meyer
OFFICE MANAGER: Anna Cortez
MONETARY GIFTS SECRETARY: Jennie Schoenefeld
CUSTODIAN: Cheryl Rortvedt

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

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Wednesday, Friday
E-MAIL ADDRESS: churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org WEB SITE: www.salemuccplywi.org
TELEPHONE: 920-892-7456/Rev. Hoppert's Cell 920-838-0405

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.

AUGUST 2020
Volume 70 No. 8