

Chapel Chimes

"SHARING FAITH, LIFTING UP, REACHING OUT AND
GROWING TOGETHER."

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN



First Notes

by Rev. Jim Hoppert

At this writing, we are roughly at the halfway point of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, which (as I've shared with you a number of times) is my favorite time of the church year. Looking back, we had a glorious start to the season, aided by a busy, but fruitful, Holy Week. Holy Week featured a variety of different worship experiences (both on-line and in-person) and an opportunity for fellowship during the egg hunt on Holy Saturday. Three services of worship—two of them in-person—on Easter Sunday, plus gorgeous weather, provided a fine beginning to the season. We couldn't have asked for much better.

As we have resumed in-person worship, there has been a good energy and a sense of optimism now that wasn't present during the re-start we had from August to the first week of October. I don't think that comes from wishful thinking on my part; people are anxious to move forward. It's good to feel that positive spirit at work.

As May approaches, I anticipate that vaccination numbers for the population, as a whole, will increase. While I am fairly certain that the virus won't disappear completely, I anticipate that we won't see the outbreaks and hot spots that were a part of last year's landscape. What that will translate into with fewer restrictions in worship and when that will happen, is hard to predict.

First Notes (continued)

Our pastoral and worship teams understand the anxiousness to return to the pre-pandemic ways of doing things. In this issue of Chapel Chimes, we will have an article that focuses on the issues involved with worship in this transition forward.

The Great Fifty Days will come to an end on May 23rd, as we celebrate the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ: Pentecost. Confirmation for our third-year students will take place during in-person worship at 10:30 a.m. “Plan A” (if the weather cooperates) will be for this service to be held outdoors, in which case we will have more options available to us for music. It will be a fitting day on the church calendar to mark this occasion.

Again, I thank all of you who have helped—through your time, talent, and treasure—to sustain the work of the church at Salem. In particular, I want to thank those of you who have helped with the ushering at the in-person worship services and I encourage others to be a part of this important worship/hospitality ministry.

Through the grace of God, we continue to move forward. May God's presence sustain you and bring you joy in these days ahead.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



Join us as we celebrate

The Rite of Confirmation

at Salem United Church of Christ

**Sunday, May 23
at 10:30am**

*in an outdoor service of worship
to allow for physical distancing*



Youth & Family Ministries News

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

As our program year comes to a close on May 23, I'd like to remind you of the upcoming opportunities in the coming weeks:

April 25

Seedlings Sunday School online
Sunday School online

May 2

Seedlings Sunday School online
IN PERSON Sunday School
(outdoors)

May 9

Seedlings Sunday School online
IN PERSON Sunday School (outdoors)

May 16

Seedlings Sunday School online
IN PERSON Sunday School (outdoors)

May 23

Youth Sunday Streaming Worship
Seedlings Sunday School online
JRYF @ 2pm

KIDS CAMP (VBS) IS BEING
PLANNED FOR LATER THIS
SUMMER. MORE DETAILS WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN JUNE!



Seedlings

**FAITH FORMATION
FOR KIDS IN 4K-1ST GRADE**
on Zoom on Sundays at 9:30am
contact the church office for login information

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MULTI-AGE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 10am
In-person beginning May 2nd

Children 4k-6th grades
are welcome to join us
for a large group learning experience
outdoors (when possible)
with Bible stories, activities,
games and community.



CONFIRMATION

Our updated Confirmation schedule is included below through the end of the school year:

4/28 Confirmation Classes
5/5 Year 1&2 Final exam
Year 3 mentor meal
5/12 Year 3 Rite of Confirmation Worship Prep
5/19 Year 3 Rite of Confirmation Worship Prep & Rehearsal
5/23 Year 3 Students celebrate the Rite of Confirmation at Salem (outdoors at 10:30am worship)

A reminder to Year 1&2 students. All workbook assignments must be up to date by the end of the school year to continue onto the next phase of the program. If you're falling behind, please let Pastor or Marsha know so we can work together to create a catch up plan.

If you have questions regarding our program, please contact Marsha or Rev. Hoppert.



We have a mission opportunity planned for this summer (July 17-24) at Back Bay Mission. This trip is open to youth 15 and older as well as adults. Deadline to participate is May 1st. Contact the church office (or Marsha) for more details.

Youth Sunday May 23 at 8:30am on Live Stream

Join us for Spirit-filled, youth led worship

Junior youth FELLOWSHIP

May 23 from 2-4pm

@ Tom & Jerry's Mini-Golf

Join us for a round of mini-golf and
play time at City Park

Cost is \$6.50

Kids grades 3-6 are welcome!



Join us as we celebrate

The Rite of Confirmation

at Salem United Church of Christ

Sunday, May 23 at 10:30am

*in an outdoor service of worship
to allow for physical distancing*

- 1 Jean Groene
- 2 Kathryn Bruggink
Kenneth Schaap
- 4 Robert Metze
- 6 Haylen Odekirk
- 7 Evan Wachter
- 8 Cheryl Rortvedt
- 9 Bonnie Laack
- 11 Lynn Ditter
- 12 Kathy Ferguson
Larry Zwerg
Lyle Theune
Owen Fink
- 13 Kathy Zelm
- 14 Madelyn Farr
- 16 Karen Raeder
- 17 Janice Nohlquist
Madelyn Markus



- 18 Joan Vorpapel
- 20 Thomas Miller
- 22 Ronald Schoenfeld
Skylar Huenik
- 23 June Miller

- 24 Denise Prange
Ethan Feldner
Thomas LeMahieu II
- 25 Sharon Groene
- 27 Alayne (Bosman) Krause
Benjamin Meinnert

- 27 Carol Boumville
Linda Lehrke
- 28 Tina Meyer
- 29 Elsa Blad
- 30 Jayna Flunker
- 31 Riley Huenink

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

As we are heading into spring I want to express my gratitude for the generous gifts that we have received from our members over the past two months. I appreciate how many of you made giving to Salem a priority, and I hope that through steady and consistent giving we are able to continue to meet our financial needs.

A strong church is reliant on the gifts received to meet the budget, but a strong and faithful church is also reliant on how we not only sustain ourselves, but also help to sustain others.

Strengthen the Church is the second of our 5 for 5 United Church of Christ benevolences this year and we are looking to receive at least \$400 in special gifts by May 23, 2021.

The money donated to Strengthen the Church offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

I pray that in addition to your regular gifts to support Salem UCC, you are able to contribute to this special offering as well. For those of you who receive paper copies of the Chapel Chimes, a special gift envelope is included.

Otherwise, please make a note on your regular giving envelope, noting whatever portion of your gifts should be earmarked toward our \$400 goal.

Thank you,

Mary Mullen submitted on behalf of the Salem Generosity Team

Readings for May

Sunday, May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm: Psalms 22:25-31

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 9 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Psalm: Psalms 98

Epistle: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Thursday, May 13 - Ascension Day

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Psalm: Psalms 47

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 16 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm: Psalms 1

Epistle: 1 John 5:9-13

Gospel: John 17:6-19



Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Epistle: Romans 8:22-27

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm: Psalms 29

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17



May Wedding Anniversaries

7TH JOHN & JUDITH MEERSTEIN
12TH ROGER & VICKI BINDER
16TH TODD & JILL THIEL
19TH DENNIS & ANDREA KAPELLEN
19TH BRETT & JILL PILLING
23RD KEVIN & DEBRA LISOWE
24TH EUGENE & GEORGINE LITTLEFIELD
25TH STEVEN & BETTY DAVENPORT
30TH JAMES & DEANNA LINDOW





“Amateur Radio exams will be held on Tuesday evening May 18, 6PM until about 9PM. Pre-registration is required. Absolutely NO walk-ins, and all safety guidelines established by Salem UCC must be followed.

Questions may be directed to Art Pahr.



Please join me in welcoming Sandy Rabe to the role of Church Secretary at Salem. She is no stranger to Salem having sung in the Women's Choir periodically and helped in the office when the former secretary was away. Sandy has been filling the role vacated in February.

We are pleased to have her join the team and trust you will enjoy working with her as well. Office hours will be adjusted effective May 1 as below:

- Monday closed
- Tuesday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday 12Noon - 4:00 pm
- Thursday closed
- Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

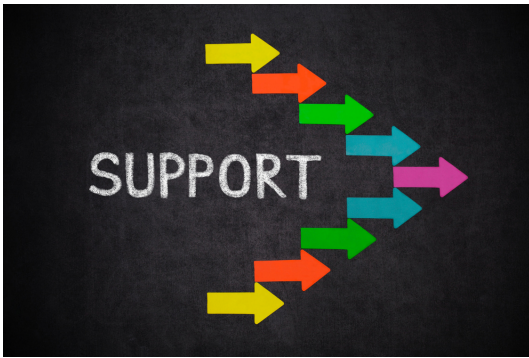
Signage will be adjusted as a result of this change. A mailbox has been mounted in the vestibule (breezeway/canopy) where you can securely leave items at your convenience that will be collected by the Church Secretary along with the USPS mail. During office hours, the building will remain secured but accessible as before.

Pastor Hoppert



UCCI Announces Reopening of Church Camps: Cedar Valley, Moon Beach, and Pilgrim Center camps will be offering family programming this year. Moon Beach “Glamping at Moon Beach” offers heated and comfortable, modern family-style cabins; Pilgrim Center July offerings include: “Survivor: Master of Tasks” July 1-10 for Grades 9-12 and “Myth Busters” July 25-31 for Grades 3-6; and Cedar Valley offers for example watercolor and “one-of-a-kind” box making for you do-it-yourselfers. Their website at ucci.org has much more to explore.

Salem and the Association both offer scholarships for campers. Speak with Marsha Meyer if you’re interested in applying for a scholarship.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Salem's Grief Support Group (SGSG) just began meeting Friday mornings from 10-11 am. Loss comes in many ways and sharing helps to heal. If you'd like to be a part of this group please call Barb Hengst, M.A., Grief Support Specialist at (920) 458-6596.

Open to members, their families, and the public.



Sheboygan
County
Interfaith
Organization

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization (SCIO) is a spiritually based organization of faith communities in Sheboygan County. Bridgeway has specific needs for multipurpose floor cleaner, copy paper, and paper towel. A link to their website is here.

[CLICK HERE](#)



COVID UPDATE: BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

"... lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:1-3 (NRSV)

In recent weeks, we have been approached by members of the church that have wondered why we have not yet resumed congregational singing during in-person worship. As promised, we have been keeping up to date on current health department, CDC, our insurance provider and Conference recommendations when considering how and when it is responsible to resume congregational singing. The latest update that the Wisconsin Council of Churches released on April 16, 2021 articulates how and when we can slowly and safely resume singing our beloved hymns together in our sanctuary again. That answer is simply, not yet. Below are highlights from their recent release pertaining to gathering and singing in times of COVID19.

While vaccination rates continue in the right direction, at this time, Sheboygan County reports that 27% of residents in Sheboygan County have been fully vaccinated. It is important to remember that children and youth under the age of 16 are still not eligible for vaccination. We are at a point in the pandemic where we must consider how to live with COVID19 in our communities and that does not mean we abandon safe practices or return to the status quo pre-pandemic.

We take seriously the role of the church as a community leader. Our church community consists of people of all ages and we pledge to to:

- Prioritize protecting the life and health of our neighbors.
- Follow the call to love good deeds urgently and care-fully.
- Believe in the resilience of the church.

COVID: BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE (continued)

If a vaccine is available, can we begin gathering again?

Yes, and we have. However, it is important to remember that our congregation is not a closed group. We move around and interact with wider communities for work, school, shopping, and recreation – even when we are being cautious due to COVID. Focusing only on those in our church fails to recognize how we all interact within our broader community and does not address care of neighbor.

Aren't we close to herd immunity yet?

While everyone above the age of 18 is eligible to receive the vaccine, not everyone can. Those at risk of adverse reactions from the vaccine, those with health conditions that prohibit them from receiving it, as well as youth and children under the age of 16, are not eligible to receive the vaccine at this time. It is critically important that as many people as are eligible get vaccinated. Herd immunity is still quite a way off. "Herd immunity" describes the point at which COVID outbreaks can't sustain themselves any longer: the virus can't find enough susceptible individuals to replicate, instead of growing exponentially, as we've been seeing for the past year. We don't want to make this too complicated, or seem difficult! Reaching herd immunity means a LOT of people need to be protected by being vaccinated against COVID, more than 75%. There are people in our community that are not yet eligible for the vaccine. They need to count on us to protect them by being immunized.

But aren't we protected with vaccines?

Vaccines may not prevent you from inadvertently infecting others. Until public health experts provide science-backed guidance that we can lessen these precautions and/or we reach herd immunity, we need to commit to the practices we know will offer protections to ourselves and our community.

When can we sing safely?

The science behind the risk of singing has been consistent. Research tells us that singing produces an aerosol mass that can travel 16 (or more) feet. It is predicted that places of worship will be able to safely resume singing indoors once we have achieved herd immunity (75% vaccination).

In the meantime, we plan to offer opportunities for worship outdoors (as weather permits), offering special music by (fully vaccinated) musicians, or prerecorded hymns to meditate on and enjoy.

This has been a long road. We are all tired. We long to express our faith through song. We miss hearing our hymns and singing them—praying them—together. We yearn to enter our church once again and lift our voices in song. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We are asking for your patience and to trust that we are acting in the best interests of the safety of our church family.

What can we do?

Promote vaccination of your friends and neighbors out of abundant care for all our brothers and sisters and continue to pray for our church and the world as we move forward with Christ together.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Jim Hoppert, Pastor
Marsha Meyer, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:	CLOSED MONDAYS	OPEN 9AM-4PM	OPEN 12N-4PM	CLOSED THURS-DAYS	OPEN 9AM-1PM	1
2 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:30 SS Seedlings (Zoom) 10am SS 4K-6 (Outdoors) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm AI Anon	3 9:00am Men's Club	6 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 7pm N Anon	5 4pm Connect SS Grades 5 & 6 6:30pm Confirmation YR3 Mentor Meal YR 1&2 Final Exam	6	7 10am Grief Support Library 7pm N Anon	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:30 SS Seedlings (Zoom) 10am SS 4K-6 (Outdoors) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm AI Anon	10 9:00am Men's Club	11 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 6pm WI Conf. Mtg 6:30pm Consistory Mtg 7pm N Anon	12 4pm Connect SS Grades 5 & 6 6pm WI Conf. Mtg 6:30pm YR 3 Rite of Confirmation Prep	13 <i>Ascension Day</i> 6pm WI Conf. Mtg	14 10am Grief Support Library 7pm N Anon	15 9am WI Con- ference Annual Meeting
16 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:30 SS Seedlings (Zoom) 10am SS 4K-6 (Outdoors) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm AI Anon	17 9:00am Men's Club	18 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 4:30pm Salem Green Board of Directors 6pm Amateur Radio Exam 7pm N Anon	19 4pm Connect SS Grades 5 & 6 6pm WI Conf. Mtg 6:30pm YR 3 Rite of Confirmation Prep & Rehearsal	20	21 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 10am Grief Support Library 7pm N Anon	22
23 <i>Pentecost with Communion</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i> <i>Rite of Confirmation</i> 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:30 SS Seedlings (Zoom) 10:30am Worship Outdoors with Rite of Confirmation 7pm AI Anon	24 9:00am Men's Club	25 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 7pm N Anon	26	27	28 10am Grief Support Library 7pm N Anon	29
30 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 8:30am Worship (Stream) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm AI Anon	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> 			<i>May 2021</i>		