

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

Once again, it's the same story, but with different variations. Apparently, the seasonal uptick in the virus isn't done with us, but eventually it will have to be. As of this writing, cases and hospitalization are still at high numbers in our part of the state and the virus is still finding people to contact. It still appears that the vaccine won't prevent transmission, but it does seem to help with making cases milder. We make our way through these times as best we can.

In the meantime, our schedule is still status quo. No one would be happier to see the numbers of sick and hospitalized decline and no one would push harder for certain changes in worship once they do. However, the patterns of the church year continue, regardless, and we will be into Advent as this newsletter reaches you. As it was mentioned in last month's newsletter, the theme of this year's Advent/Christmas worship is "The Inn: Housing the Holy." Our themes for these seasons are as follows: November 28th--"Making Room (Hope)"; December 5th--"A Place at the Table (Peace)"; December 12th--"How Much Is Enough? (Joy); December 19th – "A Room with a View (Love)"; December 24th (live-stream only)-- "The Inn"; December 26th --"Dwelling."

Our worship schedule will still continue as a live-stream at 8:30 a.m and in-person worship at 10:30 a.m for the Sundays in December. Christmas Eve worship will be streamed via Facebook at 4:30 p.m., and in-person worship will be held at 9:00 p.m. and will include communion with candlelight. Christmas Day worship will be streamed via Facebook at 10:00 a.m. and include the pre-recorded Children's Christmas Program Premiere.

First Notes (continued)

Hope still abides in this season. Things may not be as far along as we would hope, but further along than they were last year. I'm a firm believer that everything we experience in this life sets us up for something else down the road at a later date. Time will tell as to what lessons we will have learned along the way.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



The Inn: Housing the Holy will be the Advent study for this year. See Pastor's *First Notes* for details on weekly themes.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Friday, Dec. 24

4:30 p.m. Stream on Facebook service

9:00 p.m. In-person service, with communion

Saturday, Dec. 25

10:00 a.m. Stream on Facebook service including Premiere of Children's Christmas Program including readings and carols

Sunday, Dec. 26

8:30 a.m. Streaming service

10:30 a.m. In-person service

Christmas Fund Offering -- December 19

Dear Salem friends and family ...

Thank all of you who have made an extra effort to help us through the last few months, and I would ask that as we head toward our final month in 2021 and through the Advent season that everyone considers their renewed support of Salem United Church of Christ and our missions.

In December we have traditionally supported the last in our 5 for 5 Mission initiatives through the United Church of Christ—the Christmas Fund.

Our goal for Christmas Fund donations is rather modest, at \$700. This matches last year's goal, of which we raised \$500. We have special offering envelopes, which will be available in the narthex, or you can simply include the offering in your regular envelopes, or send direct to the office. Please be sure to note that the gift is for the Christmas Fund.

The Christmas Fund is a special offering that allows the United Church of Christ to provide a special Christmas season "Thank You" gift check to retired clergy and their spouses, as well as providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities, and help with health premiums for our lower-income retirees.

This special gift offering is scheduled to be received by December 19, but we will continue to accept any gifts throughout December.

I pray that we all consider the gifts and support that we have received from the church. Not only Salem UCC, but the wider church and from God and his beloved son, Jesus Christ.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity. In Christ's name.

Mary Mullen, on behalf of Finance and Generosity



Youth & Family Ministries News

CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will premiere online on Christmas Day.

On December 12th, we will meet at the Schoenefeld's farm (W6283 Cty Rd W, Cascade) at 1pm to record the children in costume for the program. Reading parts will be sent out via email, and recorded in the sanctuary during regular Sunday School hours.

Here's what's coming up in Sunday School:

Dec 5 Sunday School @ 9:45am

Dec 12 Sunday School @ 9:45am

JR Youth Christmas Party 10:45-noon
Christmas Program Recording at 1pm
at the Schoenefeld's Farm

Dec 19 Sunday School @ 9:45am

Dec 25 Christmas Program Premiere

Dec 26 No Sunday School Christmas Break

Jan 2 No Sunday School Christmas Break

CONFIRMATION

As Confirmation classes continue, please be reminded to keep up with your worship notes. Blank worship notes forms are available in the back of the sanctuary on the usher's table.

Here's what's coming up in Confirmation:

Dec 8 Class at 6:30pm

Dec 15 Class at 6:30pm

Dec 22 No Classes Christmas Break

Dec 29 No Classes Christmas Break

Jan 5 Class at 6:30pm

Jan 12 Class at 6:30pm

Jan 19 Year 1&2 Class at 6:30pm

Year 3 Mentor Meal at 6:30pm

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent
Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4
Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent
Hebrew Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Hebrew Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a
Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Friday, December 24

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Eve)
Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm: 97
Epistle: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20



Saturday, December 25

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Day)
Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm: 96
Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Sunday, December 26

First Sunday after Christmas
Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm: Psalm 148
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve
Hebrew Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm: Psalm 8
Epistle: Revelations 21:1-6a
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46



**Poinsettia plants will grace the Altar
this Christmastime and we thank all
those who contributed to what will
surely be a beautiful display for the
Christmas services.**

Thank You!

THANKYOU

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the ministry of Back Bay Mission in honor of my time on staff at Salem. The gesture was so thoughtful and unexpected. I have appreciated all of your prayers, support, and kindness as we have grown together in faith. The memories of our time together have been a blessing to me.

Peace & love,
Marsha

On behalf of Abby's extended family, I would like to thank all of you who shared expressions of sympathy with us on the loss of Abby's mother, Maxine Keppler, back in October. Your thoughts, condolences, and prayers were much appreciated at this time, especially since that loss came so closely on the heels of the passing of Abby's father back in July. Thank you for your kindness.

Pastor Jim Hoppert and family

Church Business

Members are needed to serve on the Consistory in 2022. There are opportunities to serve 3-year terms, 2-year terms and one-year terms. If you are interested, please contact Tom Daigle at 920-838-1871.

The annual reports for 2021 will be due in the church office on December 13th.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING to include Consideration of Motions to Continue Suspending Portions of Salem United Church of Christ Constitution and By-Laws

Portions of Salem's Constitution and By-Laws are currently under suspension as we undergo restructuring of our governance. The Consistory proposes that motions to continue suspending the selected portions of each document for one additional year be considered as part of the agenda for the Congregation's 2022 Annual Meeting. Copies of the existing Constitution and By-Laws with highlights and notes explaining the suspended portions are available for review. You may contact the office to request copies of either or both documents. If you are not able to accept email or pick document(s) up in person, the office can mail a hardcopy version(s) to you.



For those of you who may have missed the service recently, we share a photo taken of Marsha Meyer guessing "What's in the box?" as she used to do with the children during Advent.

Marsha was presented with a brick, engraved with her name, that will be placed onsite at Back Bay Mission as a token of our appreciation for her 11+ years of dedicated service in leading the youth and family ministries at Salem UCC. We have been changed.

Thank you, Marsha!



THE ANGEL TREE ANGELS ARE HUNG ON THE SMALL CHRISTMAS TREE NEAR THE OFFICE FOR YOU TO TAKE TO MAKE SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER. GIFTS (WRAPPED) SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY DECEMBER 7TH. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO SHOP, CASH DONATIONS WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED TO PURCHASE GIFTS (PLEASE INDICATE ANGEL TREE DONATION ON THE ENVELOPE).

Don't forget your Scrip for holiday shopping

As you do your holiday shopping, remember that Salem has a large number of gift cards for area businesses through its Scrip program. With each card purchased, a percentage is returned to the church from that business.

Scrip may be purchased at the church office during open hours.



A list of cards available for purchase appears below for your convenience. Call ahead to ensure we have what you are looking for and we can have your order ready for you.



It's that time of year

In case of inclement weather, please tune to WJUB or WHBL for any weather-related cancellations. You can also view cancellations on WTMJ 4, FOX 6 and WISN 12. If Confirmation classes are cancelled on Wednesday evenings, students will be contacted.

Retail	Grocery	Dining	Fuel
Amazon (\$10, \$25, \$100)	Festival Foods (\$25, \$50, \$100)	Applebees (\$25)	BP (\$50)
American Girl (\$25)	Piggly Wiggly (\$25, \$50, \$100)	Chesters (\$5, \$10)	Kwik Trip (\$10, \$50 fuel, \$25, \$50, \$100)
Bath & Body Works (\$10, \$25)	Meijer (\$25, \$50, \$100))	Chili's (\$25)	
Bed, Bath & Beyond (\$25)	Roundy's (\$25, \$50, \$100)	Cousin's Subs (\$10)	
Fleet Farm (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100)		Culvers (\$10, \$25)	
Great Clips (\$25)		Dairy Queen (\$10)	
Home Depot (\$25)		Domino's (\$10)	
Itunes (\$15)		Darden (\$25)	
Jo-Ann Fabrics (\$25)		Noodles (\$10)	
Kohl's (\$25, \$100)		Panera (\$25)	
Land's End (\$25)		Papa Murphy's (\$10)	
Marcus Theatres (\$25)		Qdoba (\$25)	
Menard's (\$25, \$100)		Starbucks (\$10)	
T.J. Maxx (\$25)		Subway (\$10)	
Target (\$10, \$25)		Taco Bell (\$10)	
ULTA (\$25)		Texas Roadhouse (\$25)	
Walgreens (\$25, \$100)			
Walmart (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100)			

December Celebrations

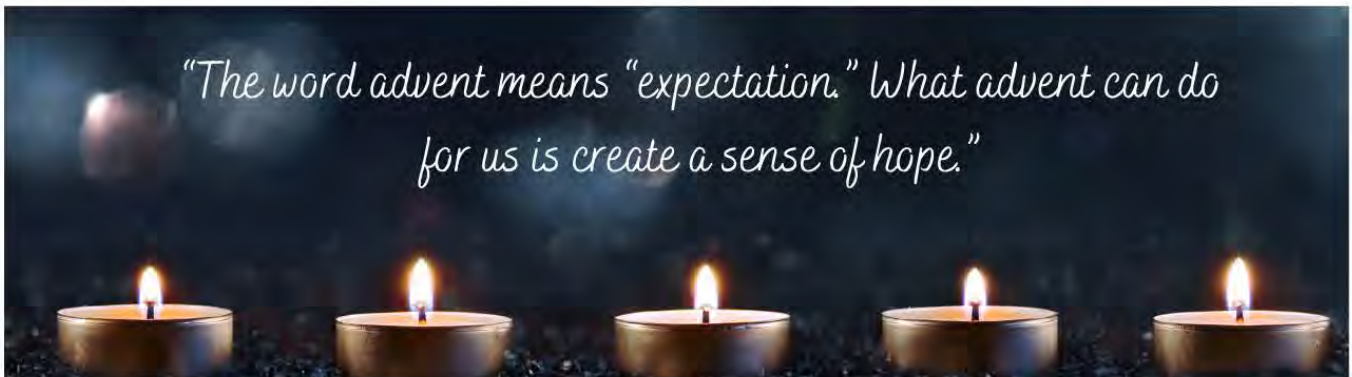


02	Julaine Thiel	15	Maureen Greuel
04	Scott Bunyea	16	Delaney Fischer
09	Charles Machut	18	Megan Thiel
10	Jeremy Pratt	19	Ansel Tupper
11	Annette Bunyea	19	Norman Raeder
11	Ramsey Fontany	20	Marilyn Rooker
13	Jeff Knuth	21	Kimberly Laack
13	William Laack	22	Zoey Meinnert
14	Brandon Halle	24	Gail Matzdorf
14	Cora Meyer	27	Harmon Gundersen
14	Eric Raeder	30	Trenton Krueger
14	Jerome Miller		

- 02 Ed & Darla Ardell
- 17 Scot & Pietje Markus
- 18 Dale & Susie Katsma
- 20 Robert & Kay Scheible
- 31 Roger, Jr. & Gloria Eldredge



"The word advent means "expectation." What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope."



Community News

Gift a Grandparent

For just \$5, you will provide our local elderly with a Christmas gift. The \$5 covers the cost of the Mary Kay Mint Gel lotion, fuzzy socks, and a card wrapped up and delivered. Consider helping bring a smile to the elderly with this thoughtful gift. For information contact Brittany at 920.838.2748.



A Living Nativity will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Howards Grove. See and hear a live 15-minute outside presentation of the Christmas story with animals. Every 20 minutes December 3 & 4 from 6-9 p.m. and December 5 from 4-7 p.m.

Free admission, parking and refreshments
(920) 565-3780

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization News

- Bridgeway could use the following items: hand soap, wrapping paper (holiday or birthday), dryer sheets, and 3 matching holiday vinyl tablecloths.
- The SCIO Winter Farmers Market will be held the first and third Saturdays from 9am-12pm, at the First Congregational Church UCC in Sheboygan.
- Bridgeway remains focused on helping moms and kiddos accomplish their goals. Our case manager is working with 10 families currently.

AUDITIONS OPEN

Salem UCC is producing a new musical, *“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Nineveh.”* This musical will be presented to the public February 25-27, 2022. The musical follows the biblical story of Jonah in a contemporary setting and has been written by Rev. Hoppert.

Community members are welcome to participate in the musical. Auditions are scheduled for Monday, Dec. 6 and Thursday, Dec. 9 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Salem UCC, 217 Salem Drive, Plymouth.

Characters to be cast include:

- **Jonah:** Not age specific. Baritone voice. Lead role.
- **Ruler of Nineveh:** Someone who could play 30-40. Not voice specific. Sprechgesang number. Needs skills in mimicry and dialect.
- **Narrator:** Not age specific or gender specific.
- **Sailors:** Need four male voices, spread evenly between bass and tenor. Not age specific.
- **Chorus:** Need 8-12 voices, spread evenly between soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Variety of ages.

Auditions will be cold readings from script, but the lead role should prepare a song with recorded accompaniment or a capella.

For more information, please contact Rev. Hoppert at 920.838.0405 or sign up to audition through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094ca9ac2aa7f49-call>

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm-8pm Confirmation	2	3	4
5 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:45am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous /AI Anon.	6 6:30-9p Auditions for Musical 9:00am Men's Group	7 <i>Items due for Bulletin Angel Tree items due</i> 10:00am Staff 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	8 6:30pm-8pm Confirmation	9 6:30-9p Auditions for Musical	10 <i>Consistory agenda items due</i>	11
12 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:45am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 10:45am Jr. Youth Fellowship 1:00pm Christmas Program Recording 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous /AI Anon.	13 <i>Annual Report Deadline</i> 9:00am Men's Group	14 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 6:30pm Consistory Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	15 6:30pm-8pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 8:30am Worship (Stream) 9:45am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous /AI Anon.	20 9:00am Men's Group	21 <i>Items due for Bulletin Articles Due for Newsletter</i> 10:00am Staff 4:30pm Salem Green Board of Directors 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	22 No Confirmation	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30pm Worship (Stream) 9:00 p.m. Worship (InPerson) with Communion and candlelight	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00am Worship (Stream) including pre-recorded Children's Christmas Program
26 8:30am Worship (Stream) No Sunday School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous /AI Anon.	27 9:00am Men's Group	28 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	29 No Confirmation	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	