

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

I don't bring up this point to boast, but I've been told during the last half of my adult life that I've got a decent recall for events of the past. I won't argue with that assessment, but I frankly never thought that being able to do that kind of thing was anything special: I assumed that everyone could do it. Sometimes that sort of thing can be a blessing; other times it can be a curse.

A curse, you might ask? How's that? For starters, the replay reel of our lives is not just the blessings and triumphs, but also the setbacks and failures. Those failures stick around in the memory bank, too. Add to that the pitfall that a good memory can lead you to being stuck in the way back, and it isn't all a blessing.

While we can build a foundation from the past and learn from our mistakes, life is lived in the present with an eye to the future. As persons in Christ, we are moving forward. Advent is a reminder that we, as the church, are a people on a journey to a future that God sets before us.

Our theme for this year's Advent season is "Moving Towards God's Vision," and during the Sundays of Advent we will touch on the following themes: November 27th, "Time to Awaken and Be Ready;" December 4th, "The Good News Will Come to All;" December 11th, "Be Patient As the Work of God Unfolds;" December 18th, "The Promise of a Child."

Each of us, the church, and the world around us has been challenged in so many ways during the past three years, or so. It is time to move forward into the future and not be held captive by the past.

The Advent season will also provide the church with an opportunity to do a multi-generational learning experience on Sunday mornings, and details of that will be included in this month's newsletter. In addition, we will have a Thursday book study at 10:00 a.m. (starting December 1st) which will look at Adam Hamilton's book, "Prepare the Way for the Lord."


As we move forward this month, we will also return to a more traditional schedule of events for the Christmas season. Christmas Eve worship will be at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., with the early service being geared to younger families and the late service featuring candle lighting (Holy Communion will be served at both services). Christmas Day will feature carols, readings, and participation (pre-recorded) from our church school children at 10:00 a.m.--our first in-person Christmas Day worship service in three years.

The Sunday after Christmas (New Year's Day, this year) will feature carols selected by the congregation, with something extra (details will be coming out on that shortly).

We have a number of things placed on the table in the weeks ahead. I hope that you will be able to join us and be a part of it.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



JOIN US FOR AN
INTERGENERATIONAL
ADVENT WORKSHOP
AT 9AM

(UNTIL THE TIME OF WORSHIP)

NOVEMBER 27

DECEMBER 4

DECEMBER 11

DECEMBER 18

COME FOR REFRESHMENTS, CONNECTION,
REFLECTION, AND MISSION PROJECTS.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

December Celebrations



2nd Julaine Thiel	15th Maureen Greuel
4th Scott Bunyea	16th Delaney Fischer
9th Charles Machut	18th Megan Thiel
10th Jeremy Pratt	19th Norman Raeder
11th Annette Bunyea	20th Marilyn Rooker
11th Ramsey Fontany	21st Kimberly Laack
13th Jeff Knuth	22nd Zoey Meinnert
13th William Laack	24th Gail Matzdorf
14th Cora Meyer	27th Harmon Gundersen
14th Eric Raeder	30th Trenton Krueger
14th Jerome Miller	

2nd Ed and Darla Ardell
17th Scot and Pietje Markus
18th Dale and Susie Katsma
20th Fritz and Kay Scheible
31st Roger and Gloria Eldredge

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



Thank You!



Tags with items needed for the Angel Tree are available in the Gathering Area. Items are due back at the church no later than Wed., Dec. 7. Thank you for helping our local families during the holiday season.

Sending bunches of blessings for a joy-filled Advent Season. Thinking of you and sending our care.

Rollie and Kathy Bruggink
Eugene and Georgine Littlefield
Florence Blanke **Tim Miller**
Carol Groene **Eugene Boll**
June Miller **Don Hurlburt**
Ben Meinnert **JoAnn Kraus**
Jean Halida

RING IN THE NEW YEAR
with us in worship at 10AM!

January 1st will feature a special
Hymn Sing where we will "Sing In"
the new year with member
favorites - Christmas/Advent
Hymns!

Submit your entry including:

- 1) Hymn Name
- 2) The reason why you like it
- 3) Your Name

JANUARY 1ST
WE'RE HAVING A ...

"Sing In"

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS HYMN?

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CA9AC2AA7F49-sing>



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting January 29, 2023 will include a review of suggested changes to our Constitution and Bylaws, followed by a vote to amend these church documents. The documents, with suggested changes highlighted, will be available for review prior to the meeting; we'll alert you to their availability through the weekly bulletins.

Reports from various organizations of the church are requested to be in the Church Office by December 29, please, to allow for time to organize and distribute in advance of the meeting. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday mornings at Salem have been very lively during our class time. The weeks have been flying by as lessons unfold. These past weeks, students have been rehearsing parts for their Christmas program. Each Sunday during Advent (November 27, December 4, 11, 18), Sunday School students and others should plan to gather in Fellowship Hall as Marsha Meyer leads programming for all ages from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Food, fellowship and opportunities for learning and Christian service await you each week as we prepare to welcome Baby Jesus.

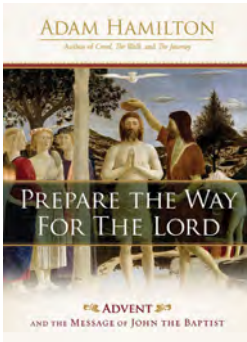
Join us for worship Christmas morning - in person or livestream - at 10:00 a.m., as the Salem Sunday School children share a story of God's love for all. The children are putting much practice, care and joy into their production (which is being pre-recorded over the coming weeks). We hope you will enjoy!

Parents, grandparents and others continue to bless us with their presence in class. All are welcome to stop by to visit or volunteer. If you have an interest in learning more about our Sunday School and other Faith Formation opportunities, the Sundays of Advent may be the perfect time to check in with us.

Our Sunday School will have Christmas Break on December 25 and January 1. Classes are set to resume January 7, 2023. Everyone ages 4 years – Grade 6 is invited to join us on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. You are always welcome!

FAITH

FORMATION



COPIES AVAILABLE OF BOOK FOR ADVENT STUDY

Contact the church office if you would like a copy of the book for this Advent study beginning December 1 and held each Thursday at 10 a.m. during Advent. Join us in the Library. Adam Hamilton's book, "Prepare the Way for the Lord" can otherwise be ordered through Amazon.

CONFIRMATION NEWS



Wednesday evenings are also abuzz at Salem. Thank you to our Salem 7th – 9th graders, their families and mentors for their tremendous willingness to participate. During the past months, we have enjoyed a program at Lakeland University, discussed many stories of our faith ancestors, sacraments and discipleship. There have been two evenings for our Year 3 students and their mentors to share meals and conversations of faith experiences. I am so pleased with the response to our call for mentors. The pairings seem to be going very well. It is amazing what God can do in and through us. We have also had two workshops. If you have a chance to speak with our Confirmation students, please ask them about the person their small group drew and how different parts of the body could be resources for Generosity. You could also talk with them about what they each did with \$1,000 in gift cards!

Have you seen some of our young people helping with sound and video recordings, singing in the choir, ushering and participating in other ways? As we continue to move through the program year, students are reminded to keep up with worship attendance, notes and participation requirements. As Christmas approaches, it may be a good time to plan for attendance at an alternative place of worship or other activities with parents, grandparents, mentors and others. Here is our upcoming schedule for Confirmation:

Date	Time	Event	Years 1 & 2	Year 3
Wed 12/7/2022	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Deborah	Tough Questions
Wed 12/14/2022	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Samson	UCC History
Wed 12/21/2022	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	About Christmas	About Christmas
Wed., 12/28/2022		No Class	Christmas Break	Christmas Break
Wed 1/4/2023	5:30 PM	Mentor Meal (Year 3)	XXXXXX	Mentor Meal
Wed 1/4/2023	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Ruth	Mentor Time
Wed 1/11/2023	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	David	Salem History
Wed 1/18/2023	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Solomon	Other Beliefs
Wed 1/25/2023	6:15 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Elijah	Death and Dying

On behalf of Salem's Faith Formation Team, I invite anyone with questions or concerns about our Sunday School or Confirmation programs to contact the church office or reach out to any member of our team. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our children and youth and these important ministries!

Wishing you peace, hope, love, joy and blessings,
Mary Bender

Lectionary Readings for December

Dec. 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10
Epistle: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Epistle: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm: Psalm 96
Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm: Psalm 98
Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4
Gospel: John 1:1-14



SCIO MISSION: "educate and advocate for social justice and dignity, and to improve the quality of life for all people."

Bridgeway is in need of paper products. Paper towel, kleenex, and toilet paper would be greatly appreciated. Families are in need of transportation assistance. Daily bus passes and gas cards are welcome as the winter season approaches. *Please bring items to the church office and we will deliver them.*



Two families currently call Bridgeway "home". Another family of three will be moving into Bridgeway before Thanksgiving. SCIO's mentoring program is going strong! We plan to ring bells for the Salvation Army and go to Evergreen Park to look at Christmas Lights in addition to having a Holiday Party. Please hold the Bridgeway family in your thoughts and prayers as we venture through a season of change with new residents.

Sheboygan County

NIGHT TO SHINE

Join Sheboygan County Night to Shine – Serve as a volunteer, invite guests to be honored kings or queens, provide other support – Visit <https://sheboygancounty.nighttoshine.com/> for more details.

I am excited to share a little bit about Sheboygan County Night to Shine and Salem's opportunity for involvement in this exciting event which provides an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. We need all types of volunteers to make this happen. In Plymouth, Salem UCC will be partnering with Christian Life Church in hosting Night to Shine 2023 on Friday, February 10. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sheboygan Falls will be hosting an event at the same time. Together, our churches form Sheboygan County Night to Shine.

Guests of Night to Shine receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres. They walk a red carpet; and every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned a king or queen of the prom, complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi! Honored guests of Night to Shine enjoy prom favors and, of course, dancing. Photographs, refreshments and a Respite Room for parents and caretakers are also part of the evening.

Volunteers will be able to serve in some of the following ways: Activity Stations, Decorating, Flowers, Food Service, Guest Buddy, Guest and Volunteer Check-In, Paparazzi, Parking & Transportation, Respite Room, Sensory Room, Here to Cheer, Set-Up, Tear Down, and more.

There are ways that each of us can play a part. Some things need to happen before the event, some during and others after. I know many at Salem have been part of Night to Shine in years past, just as I have. I encourage those who have participated to share your stories. If anyone would like to hear some of my stories and/or learn more about this spectacular event, please let me know. I hope you will consider how you can contribute to making February 10th an evening to remember!

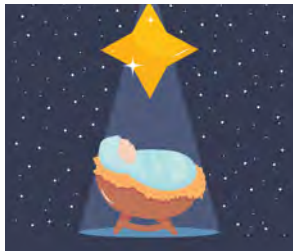
Blessings,
Mary Bender

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am Advent Book Study	2 5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal 7pm NA	3 1:30 pm Helmer/ Errthrum Wedding
4 9-9:45 am Faith Formation 10-11 am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm AA	5	6 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 7pm NA	7 Angel Tree Items due at church 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	8 10am Advent Book Study 7pm NA	9 <i>Consistory Items Due</i> 7pm NA	10
11 Holy Communion 9-9:45 am Faith Formation 10-11 am Worship (Livestream and in-person) Afternoon—Children at the Schoenefeld farm 7pm AA	12 9am Men's Coffee	13 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Consistory 7pm NA	14 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 10am Advent Book Study 7pm NA	16 <i>Chapel Chimes Items Due</i> 7pm NA	17
18 9-9:45 am Faith Formation 10-11 am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm AA	19 9am Men's Coffee	20 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Salem Green Bd Mtg 7pm NA	21 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 10am Advent Book Study 7pm NA	23 7pm NA	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30pm & 10pm Worship with candlelight and Holy Communion
25 10am Worship of Carols, Readings, and Children's recorded program (Livestream and in-person)	26 9am Men's Coffee Pastor Vacation	27 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 7pm NA	28	29 7pm NA	30 7pm NA	→

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PASTOR: Rev. James M. Hoppert
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Anne Hernandez / CHOIR DIRECTOR: Eileen Brooks
CONSISTORY PRESIDENT: Paul Clarke
TREASURER: Mary Mullen
CUSTODIAN: Shannon Mendenhall
CHURCH SECRETARY: Linda Bosman/Sandy Rabe
ORGANIST: Scott Weir

*CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE
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OFFICE HOURS: OPEN TUES 9-4; WED 9-4; FRI 9-1CLOSED MON & THURS
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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Sharing faith, lifting up, reaching out and growing together."

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