

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

As of this writing, I haven't seen very much in the popular culture that is hyping or selling anything related to Easter. There have been a lot of political ads, but not much pitching of chocolate, eggs, or any of the fixings for a traditional Easter dinner. That observation doesn't disappoint me: it simply is a statement of what I've seen. Christmas, on the other hand, is a different story. Any time after November 1 is fair game for pushing anything and everything that could be connected to the culture's celebration of Christmas. It is hype on steroids.

Perhaps Christmas is just a better vehicle for moving merchandise. Regardless, there's no question that the world pays more attention to Christmas than it does Easter. Often times Christmas gets more attention than Easter in the church, too. That state of affairs often makes me wonder why.

The birth of Jesus is certainly a thing worth celebrating in the church—even if we don't have a very good idea of where the date actually fell. Famous figures have birthdays that often get celebrated. However, if it weren't for the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday there wouldn't much of a reason for Jesus' life to have been remembered down through the ages. If it weren't for the resurrection and the validating stamp of God's approval of his life and ministry that came with it, Jesus would have just been one of a number of Jewish martyrs of antiquity. There was nothing much unique about failed, would-be Messiahs in that time.

Easter is the thing that makes the difference.

It doesn't bother me that the world doesn't hype the holiday. It doesn't bother me that retailers don't play Easter hymns day and night over their sound systems. It doesn't matter that there is less "merch" to push at Easter. For believers in Jesus, Easter is far more than any of that.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter Sunday, I am glad that, for the first time in three years, we will go back to a full schedule of worship and fellowship events. It is about time. Details of the schedule can be found in this month's newsletter.

One final note: on Sunday, April 23, we will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for seven of our young people at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. I hope that many of you will be present in worship to welcome these young people into this new step in their spiritual journeys.

May you and yours have a most blessed Eastertide.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.
Rev. Jim Hoppert



DELEGATES NEEDED

FOR: 61st Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference UCC

WHEN: Sat., April 22 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Daycholah Center near Green Lake

WHY: To elect new committee members and representatives to our NEA Boards and Divisions, approve budgets and ratify committee reports. Guest speakers are Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdew of the Cherokee nation and Rebekah Elder of the Menominee nation.

WHO: Salem needs two people from our congregation to attend this meeting. No special qualifications are needed to serve. Please contact the church office by April 5 if you are willing to represent our congregation.



To **Scott Weir**, the organist who continues to record the hymns, preludes, postludes and choir accompaniment we are enjoying during worship service.

To all those who brought delicious soup, sandwich fixings, baked potato bar, desserts and the many other items for our Lenten meals and to those who helped with set up and clean up. A special thanks to **Cyndi Huibregtse** for organizing everything associated with the meals, to **Marsha Meyer** for organizing the service projects and to **Ian Schoenefeld** for accompanying us during the Vesper services.

Holy Week Worship and Other Activities



Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. In person and livestream

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week in which we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Service will conclude with the reading of the Passion Story. All are welcome.



Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. In person and livestream

Maundy Thursday is the day in which we remember Jesus' last Passover meal with his disciples. Worship will be a solemn service that includes Holy Communion and a service of Tenebrae--a gradual extinguishing of candles. We will leave the sanctuary in darkness and in silence. All are welcome.



Friday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m. In person and livestream

Good Friday is the day in which we commemorate Jesus' crucifixion. There will be no benediction to remind us the story is not over. All are welcome.



Sunday, April 9 at 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. In person and livestream

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Both services will include Holy Communion, and the sanctuary will be beautifully decorated for this joyous occasion. The Chancel Choir will sing at late service. All are welcome.



Saturday, April 8 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Families are invited to play Easter Bingo, enjoy light refreshments and the outdoor egg hunt. Bring your baskets and join us! *Sponsored by Salem's Train Up a Child Ministry, with assistance from Confirmation students.*



Sunday, April 9 at 8:15 a.m.

All are invited to Easter breakfast between worship services on Sun., Apr. 9. The menu will include brunch casseroles, breads, fruit, cereal and beverages. Please RSVP on the sheet in the Gathering Area.



Faith Formation

Church School

Students continue to meet weekly at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please note there will be no Faith Formation on Easter Sunday. Families are encouraged to worship together at one of the services and join us for Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Church school leaders will be working with the youth to plan a Youth Sunday worship in May. If anyone would like to help with that, please contact Mary Bender, Mary Mullen or Rev. Hoppert.

Confirmation Classes

Thank you to all the Confirmation youth who helped with the Vesper services during Lent.

The final Confirmation class for the year will be Wed., Apr. 19.

Year 3 Confirmands will be reading their personal faith statements at the worship services leading up to Confirmation on Sunday, Apr. 23.

Parents: if you are considering camps for your child this summer, keep in mind the camps offered by United Church Camps (UCCI), an affiliate of the UCC. There are many opportunities for students of all ages--and families--at Daycholah Center in Green Lake, Moon Beach near Eagle River and Cedar Valley near West Bend. Older youth may also want to consider serving as camp counselors and other staff at these outdoor ministries. More information is available in the church office or at www.ucci.org.

PLYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY "LOAD OUR SHELVES"

Thank you for your tremendous response to supporting the local food pantry with a specific item of the month.

For April the item we will be collecting is:
Pasta Sauce



A Food Pantry bin is in the gathering area just outside the church office area. Place the items you bring in the bin and know that you are helping support this valuable local mission!



Birthdays

4/1 Roland Bruggink	4/10 Kenneth Mauk	4/20 Judith Helmer
4/1 Wade Kleinhans	4/10 Terry Debbink	4/21 John Humbracht
4/3 Corbin Krueger	4/12 Samuel Veldman	4/22 Andrea Kapellen
4/3 Lillian Fontany	4/14 Hannah (Mauk) Kanis	4/22 Paulette Klotz
4/3 Megan Quade	4/15 Benjamin Picard	4/25 Mark Leverenz
4/5 Carol Thelen	4/16 Karlee Hartmann	4/26 Ed Ardell
4/5 Rev. Jim Hoppert	4/17 Donald Tenpas	4/27 Evelyn Markus
4/7 Kay Halle	4/19 Dave Barts	4/28 Deegan Quade
4/8 Tara Meinnert	4/19 Gail Kleinhans	4/29 Jean Halle

Wedding Anniversaries

4/3 Jeff & Maureen Greuel	4/24 Todd & Dawn Fischer
4/8 Kenneth & Kathy Schaap	4/24 Gerald & Reta Klemme
4/11 Joshua & Angela Bender	4/27 Benjamin & Tara Meinnert
4/20 Ronald & Sandra Holzmann	4/30 Donald & Judy Miller
4/22 LeRoy & Sandra Fritsch	

Keep these members in our prayers

Jean Halida
JoAnn Kraus
Eugene and Georgine Littlefield
Rollie and Kathy Bruggink
Florence Blanke

Tim Miller
Ron Holzmann
Eugene Boll
Andrea Kapellen
Don Hurlburt



Lectionary Readings for April

Apr. 2 – Sixth Sun. in Lent/Palm Sunday

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11
Passion Reading: Matthew 27:11-54

Apr. 6 – Maundy Thursday

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 12:1-4,
(5-10), 11-14
Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Apr. 7 – Good Friday

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm: Psalm 22
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

Apr. 9 – Easter Sunday

Hebrew Scripture: Acts 10:34-43
Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Apr. 16 - Second Sunday of Easter

Hebrew Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm: Psalm 16
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Apr. 23 - Third Sunday of Easter

Hebrew Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Apr. 30 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Hebrew Scripture: Acts 2:42-47
Psalm: Psalm 23
Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

Devotional Books Available

If you enjoy reading a daily devotional, copies of the *Upper Room* and *These Days*, which offer daily devotionals, are available in the literature near the Gathering Area. A small donation to offset the subscription cost would be appreciated.

Consider adding a Scrip card to your Easter baskets this year. There are lots of options to choose from. Inquire at the church office.





Lakeland University's Social Justice Camp 2023

Sunday, June 18 - Thursday, June 22, 2023

We're here to engage local area high school students in the work of social justice! Campers receive meals, lodging, and camp materials. We will visit social justice sites, invite activists to work hands-on with campers, build relationships with each other and Lakeland faculty and students, and have a lot of fun. Camp will build awareness of social justice and social justice issues that will lead to a better understanding of how to tackle real-world problems by looking at them through multiple lenses. Together, we will envision a more just future for our communities and the world.

Program overview of topics/focus areas:

- Social justice through art, religion, music, culture and more
- Educational discrimination and student rights
- Organizing and advocacy

Eligibility

Students entering their high school junior or senior year in the fall of 2023.

Application timeline and fee

\$100 (need-based scholarships available.)

SPOTS LIMITED! Application deadline May 1st.

To be considered for a need-based scholarship, please write a few sentences why the scholarship would be helpful in the appropriate space on the registration page. Please note that scholarships are limited.

The safety and health of campers and staff is our highest priority. We will monitor the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and will adjust camp accordingly.

Apply online at: Lakeland.edu/socialjusticecamp or scan the QR code.




Questions? Contact Le'Shay Guy

Director of Student Diversity, Equity and Belonging Initiatives, Asst. Director of the Ulrich Center
GuyL@lakeland.edu Office: 920-565-1043 ext. 2510

April 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9am Faith Formation 10am Palm Sunday Worship (Livestream and in-person)	3 9am Men's Coffee	4 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff	5 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion (Livestream and in-person)	7 <i>Consistory agenda items due</i> 1:30pm Good Friday Worship (Livestream and in-person)	8 9:30am Easter Games & Egg Hunt
9 7am Easter Worship (Livestream and in-person) with Holy Communion 8:15am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Easter Worship (Livestream and in-person) with Holy Communion 7pm AA	10 9am Men's Coffee	11 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff	12 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 9am Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm AA	17 9am Men's Coffee 6:30pm Special Gifts Team Meeting	18 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff 1:30pm Salem Green BOD	19 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30pm Special Gifts Team Meeting	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline for May Chapel Chimes</i>	22 9am NEA Annual Meeting—Green Lake
23 9am Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) with Rite of Confirmation and Holy Communion 7pm AA	24 9am Men's Coffee 6:30pm Finance Team Meeting	25  (Ctrl) ▾ <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff	26 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30pm Endowment Team Meeting—Zoom	28	29
30 9m Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm AA						

Dear Friends:

As I had written in the *Chapel Chimes* some time back, the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference voted to ask its member churches to consider the **WISE** initiative during the upcoming year (**WISE** stands for “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged” and describes an approach taken towards mental health). Certainly, issues of mental health touch all of our lives directly or indirectly: either we’ve personally had our challenges with it or we know others who have. In order to try to determine what approaches and strategies to mental health might be best for our congregation, the Consistory authorized the development of a survey to discover what our needs might be.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this **anonymous** survey. It will be helpful to learn more about the needs of our congregation.

Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Hoppert

Let’s Be WISE Survey

1. What are the feelings and states that are so distressing you wish you had community support and help for ways to cope? Please rank your choices by putting a number 1 by your highest priority, a 2 by your next priority, and so forth.

_____ General Anxiety

_____ Grief

_____ Depression

_____ Stress/Overwhelmed

_____ Insecurity/Low Self-Esteem

_____ Anger/Impulse Control

_____ Loneliness/Isolation

_____ Suicidal Thoughts

_____ Fear

_____ Compassion Fatigue

_____ Social Anxiety

_____ Guilt and Shame

_____ Other: _____

_____ Other: _____

2. Following on the feelings you identified in Question 1, what topics would you like to see addressed? (Examples: grief, teens in crisis, chronic pain, suicide intervention, domestic violence support, financial stress, etc.)

3. What activities would you like our church to develop to address the mental health challenges we identify? (Examples: support groups; educational programs; meditation times; etc.)

4. What do you see as mental health needs in the greater Plymouth area that our church may wish to address as part of our commitment to becoming WISE?

5. We are a church, not a mental health facility. We cannot undertake primary treatment or counseling for any mental health issue. But in a supportive role, we can seek to embrace our sisters and brothers and ourselves in community and love. If this ministry speaks to you, what sort of volunteer effort would you be willing to undertake in our commitment to become WISE? (Examples: collect/organize mental health resources; help organize educational programs on mental issues; lead a support group; be a mentor or support person to someone struggling with mental health issue, etc.)

Thank you for your time in answering these questions. You may drop off your completed survey in the mailbox in east entrance or in the marked box in the church office.

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

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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Sharing faith, lifting up, reaching out and growing together."

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