

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

Although I am far from the most tech savvy person in the world, I have been paying some attention to online articles about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Like every other technological innovation, AI shows potential for great benefit and great harm. On the positive side, it could open up a wider range of consumer choices delivered more efficiently, it can analyze huge sets of data more quickly than even the current systems can, and it can make the delivery of truly personalized medicine a possibility. AI can write research papers, letters, and perhaps even sermons (although the day I use AI as a tool for crafting sermons is the day I hang it up...). On the other hand, AI automation could lead to job losses, AI algorithms could manipulate social opinions and help spread propaganda, totalitarian states could use it to tighten social surveillance, and whole weapons systems could be controlled by AI. Given the very human tendency to misuse new powers and abilities, we could be in for a rough next few decades.

Yet, the strangest—and perhaps the weirdest—application of AI comes from a South Korean tech company which allows people to talk with their dead loved ones after collecting photos and video footage of them. Part of the process involves a seven-hour interview with the to-be-deceased to gather data and life stories. AI can be used to synthesize an individual's mannerisms, facial tics, and speech patterns to give grieving families an opportunity to meet a “realistic” representation of their loved one. Of course, this use of AI isn't cheap: it costs between \$12,000 and \$24,000 to do the upfront data gathering and each “meeting” with a loved one (in the private “memorial showroom”) costs an additional \$1,200 a session.

Apparently “immortality” comes with a hefty price tag.

Personally, I would have no use for this application of AI. No matter how “realistic” the final product may seem, I would know in my heart of hearts that I'm not speaking with my father or my in-laws in such a

session. Furthermore, I can see where this technology could create problems for some people in coming to some sense of closure with their grief. Thank you, no.

What does this application of AI have to do with the season of Eastertide?

I am thankful that the lessons of an Easter faith remind us that eternal life does not come through AI, but through the power of God to make all things new. What tempers the pain of loss is the promise of the resurrection, not some holographic image. In the future I will experience fellowship with family and friends who have gone on ahead of me and it won't cost me a good share of money to do so. I will place my final trust in God.

Human abilities are no match for the might of God in helping us to deal with the losses we face in this world.

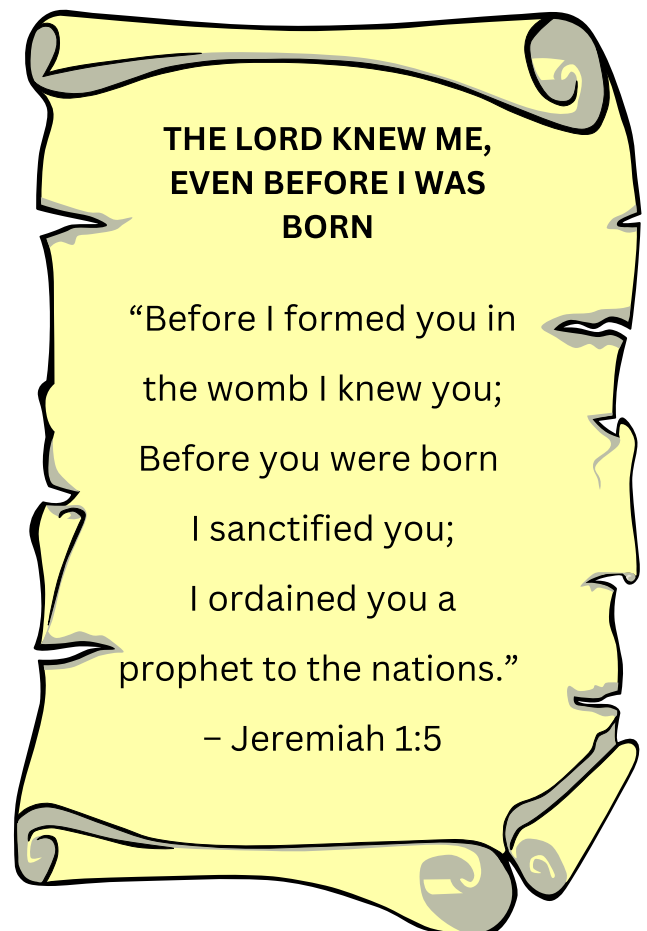
May the remaining days of Eastertide and the arrival of Pentecost be a blessing to you and those you love.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert

Thank you 

A sincere "Thank You" to everyone who helped make Holy Week extra special with flowers, sanctuary decorating, the Easter games and egg hunt for our families, special music, the livestream services and all the efforts that went into making everyone feel welcome at Salem. The Clarke family sends a special thank you to everyone who attended the Easter breakfast and brought items to share to make it a wonderful success.



YOUTH SUNDAY TO BE CELEBRATED MAY 2

Please save the date of May 21 on your calendar to celebrate Youth Sunday with us in worship. More details will be forthcoming in the weekly announcements. Your encouragement and support of the young people at Salem United Church of Christ is vital and we appreciate you and look forward to participating in worship as this year's Faith Formation program comes to a close.



CONFIRMANDS WELCOMED

What a blessing it was to welcome our 2023 confirmation class to the life and work of our church on April 23.

We extend the hand of Christian fellowship to our newest members:

Magnus Blad (parents Leslie & Jordan Blad)

Katy and Aubrey Fischer (parents Dawn & Todd Fischer)

Sam Meyer (parents Marsha & Peter Meyer)

Haylen Odekirk (parents Melissa & Kyle Odekirk)

Ali Pilling (parents Jill & Brett Pilling)

Carter Pratt (parents Jody Helmer & Jeremy Pratt)

We are equally blessed to recognize these adult members who have spent time one-on-one as mentors to the Confirmands as is the practice here at Salem.

We thank these longstanding members for your servant leadership.



Kay Scheible and Faye Hughes for Magnus Blad

Angie Hartmann for Aubrey Fischer

Cyndi Huibregtse for Katy Fischer

Terry Risse for Sam Meyer

Lorena McKerrow for Haylen Odekirk

Janet Veleke for Ali Pilling

Al Bosman for Carter Pratt



We will recognize graduates on Sunday, June 4 in worship and extend a blessing on their way forward.

If you are graduating or know of a family member graduating this spring, please contact us so we might include them in our time of blessing. Contact the church office at 920.892.7456.

high school college tech school preschool

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS



Sunday, May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Hebrew Scripture: Acts 7:55-60
Psalm: 31:1-5, 15-16
Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Hebrew Scripture: Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm: 66:8-20
Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel: John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 21 Youth Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Hebrew Scripture: Acts 1:6-14
Psalm: 68:1-10, 32-35
Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Gospel: John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 28 *Holy Communion*

Eighth Sunday of Easter and
Pentecost Sunday
Hebrew Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b
Epistle: 1 Cor 12:3b-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23



SALEM YARD CLEAN UP

SAT., MAY 6

8:30 AM - NOON

If you can help with some raking, moving mulch and other light yard work, please stop by and lend a hand for an hour or two.

Thank
YOU!

I was so happy to have received a visit and lovely Easter basket from my Salem Church family. Such a nice gift to receive and to be remembered - along with the beautiful card and so many signatures. It meant so much to me. *JoAnn Kraus*

Thank you for remembering me this Easter. It was a pleasant surprise to receive the gifts and the visit from the family who delivered the Easter basket. Thanks to everyone who made the shawl, cards, cookies and contributed in any way to the gifts. *Elaine Kuck*



SPECIAL GIFTS TEAM

Dear Salem Family -

Our *Special Gifts* team met in April and is pleased to announce that \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded to Cassie Pilling and Morgan Clarke for their 2023-2024 school year. The committee will meet again in July to consider additional applications from any member of Salem UCC desiring to further their education via vocational, technical, or college classes this fall. In addition, the team will consider other requests for funding of projects that will enhance the missions and ministries of this church.

We encourage any Salem member to consider applying for a scholarship--please submit your request to the Special Gifts Team before July 10, 2023.



As a reminder, the gifts are available to support any kind of continuing education--from an individual class that you may be taking to technical college to any four-year college. Funds can be used for tuition, books, or other needs associated with continuing your education.

Applying is simple. You must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited college or school. You can request an application form from the church office, complete and return the form along with a brief essay telling us about your field of study, your career plans and a list of any other scholarship or grant funding you have received, if applicable. Here is a link to the form <https://form.jotform.com/202336051057041>

We look to provide grants up to \$1,000 to be distributed as \$500 per semester. Grant requests for smaller amounts are also welcomed.

If you have any questions about Special Gifts, please feel free to reach out to our members: Cindy Conrad, Mary Mullen, Kay Scheible, Faye Hughes, Jackie Veldman, or Rev. Hoppert.

Sincerely,

Kay Scheible

On behalf of the Special Gifts Team



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

For May the item we will be collecting is:

Baked Beans

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!

PLYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY "LOAD OUR SHELVES"



Summer camp means time for fun! Like, a lot of fun! Campers make new friends, have adventures, grow in confidence and independence, and feel safe to be themselves.

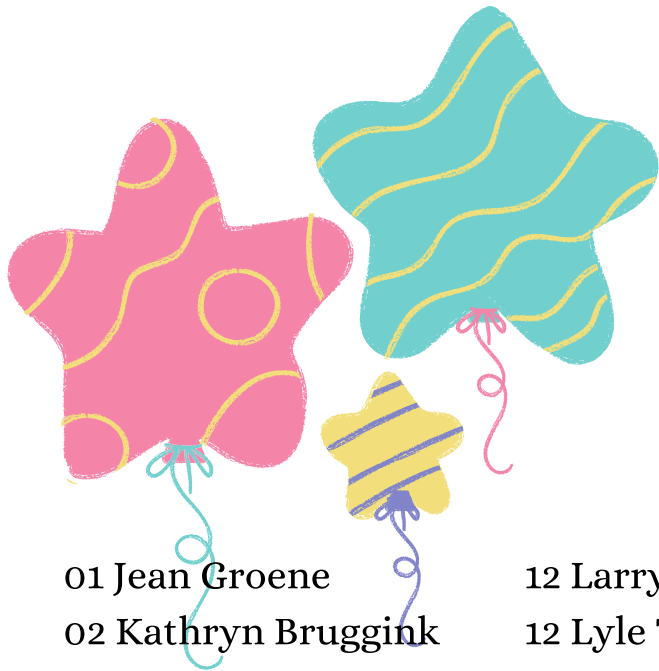
Daycholah Center in Green Lake offers something for all age groups.

& Me Camps offer young campers (grades K-2) a few days with an adult they love. Tenderfoot introduces young (grades 2-3) to overnight camp. DC Elements Summer Camp is an all-around adventure of summer camp with swimming, boating, target sports, campfires, camp songs, arts & crafts, and sleeping in cabins. Con, Night Owl, Sailing, Green Lake Expedition, and Fishing Camp each offer an immersive experience along with traditional camp activities.

If you've been thinking about summer camp, now is the time to register! There are scholarships available through the Northeast Association; contact the church office for more information about these scholarships.

Go to ucci.org to see all the camp/retreat options at Daycholah, Moon Beach and Cedar Valley sites.

enjoy your summer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May Birthday Celebrations

01 Jean Groene

02 Kathryn Bruggink

02 Kenneth Schaap

04 Robert Metze

06 Haylen Odekirk

08 Cheryl Rortvedt

09 Bonnie Laack

12 Larry Zwerg

12 Lyle Theune

16 Karen Raeder

17 Madelyn Markus

20 Thomas Miller

22 Ronald Schoenfeld

23 Denise Prange

24 Ethan Feldner

27 Alayne Krause

27 Benjamin Meinnert

27 Carol Bournoville

29 Elsa Blad

30 Jayna Flunker

May Wedding Anniversaries

07 John and Judith Meerstein

16 Todd and Julaine Thiel

19 Brett and Jill Pilling

20 Ryan and Shyanne Halle

24 Eugene and Georgine Littlefield

25 Steven and Betty Davenport





***Need a gift for Mother's Day,
Father's Day or Graduation?***

Scrip cards always make a welcome gift! The church office has a wide supply of cards for area stores and restaurants to suit most any taste. And your purchase of Scrip benefits the church!

These are just some of the cards available for purchase: Pick and Save, Piggly Wiggly, Festival Foods, Home Depot, Menard's, Meijer's, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, Fleet Farm, Kwik Trip, Walgreens, Chester's, Culver's, Dairy Queen, Amazon, Bath and Body Works, Cousin's.

CONFERENCE OFFICE TRANSITIONS TO DAYCHOLAH

Conference Minister Franz Rigert provides this update on the move of the Wisconsin Conference UCC office:

On April 12 we bid farewell to the Trost Center. After weeks of packing and preparations, Badger Brothers Movers filled a 26-foot truck, delivering most of the items to the new Conference offices located in the lower level of Spring Grove Lodge at Daycholah Center, then proceeded to First Congregational UCC in Ripon, where we have secured an additional room for storage. Already, the staff is settling in and excited about this expanded partnership with United Church Camps, Inc.

The sale of the Trost Center, for \$1.35 million, is now complete and there is a spirit of gladness that our beautiful conference home will be transformed into a holistic

health clinic, bringing wellness and hope to people for many years to come. With this transition, the Conference will complete our investment in Daycholah, providing UCCI financial stability and the promise of a multiyear reboot following the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

We expect some members of the Conference staff to be present at Daycholah each week from Tuesday through Thursday, although all of us are available by email and cellphone whether we are working remotely or on site.

For those who will attend the Annual Meeting, Sunday morning spiritual options will take place at Daycholah Center, and we will offer tours of the new office space. In this Eastertide, we celebrate a new era in our shared Conference Life.

1) GENERAL ANXIETY 2) SOCIAL ANXIETY 3) DEPRESSION 4) GRIEF 5) COMPASSION FATIGUE

NOT IF BUT WHEN YOU NEED A HAND



THE TOP FIVE SURVEY RESPONSES SO FAR...

WE ASKED AND YOU RESPONDED - THE TOP FIVE OF 13 "FEELINGS AND STATES THAT ARE DISTRESSING YOU ENOUGH THAT YOU WISH FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND HELP FOR WAYS TO COPE." SALEM'S TOP 5 ARE ALONG THE LEFT OF THIS PAGE. SURPRISING? NO. CAN WE HELP? YES. HOW?

LOCAL RESOURCES

Generations in Plymouth offers a variety of ways to make connections. Veterans? Join the chat time on second Mondays monthly at 11 a.m. Grief? Widows and Widowers Group meets each Monday at 11 a.m. Compassion Fatigue? An abundance of wellness initiatives from memory care to tech support are available. Call 920.892.4858 for more details on any of these.

Mental Health America Lakeshore on S. Milwaukee St. in Plymouth offers these Support Groups:


- Compassionate Parents - for bereaved and grieving parents
- Suicide Loss - for those who have lost a loved one to suicide
- THRIVE - Women Chronic Pain Support Group
- Here Comes the Sun - for family members of individuals with mental illness
- Lemonade - Widows' Support Group

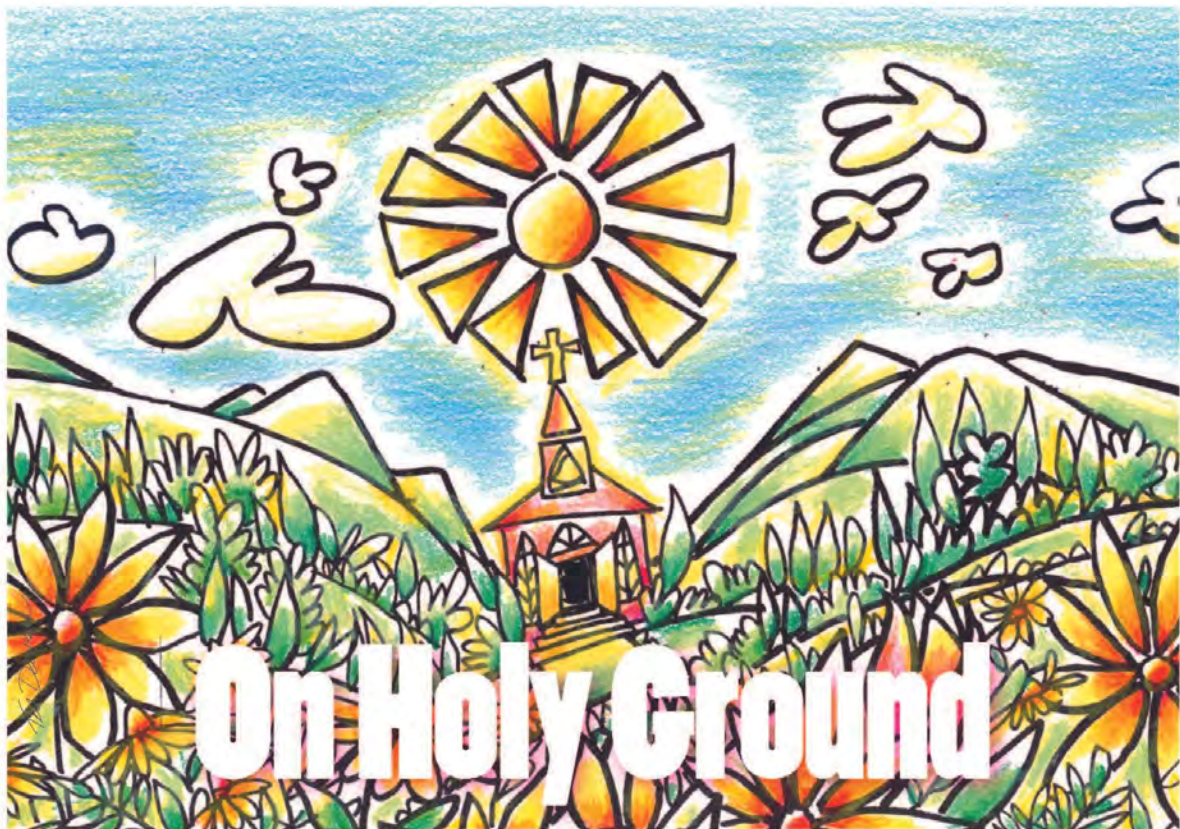
Call 920.458.3951 for more details on these and other mental health resources.

NO MATTER WHO, NO MATTER WHAT, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE, YOU ARE WELCOME AT SALEM AND LOVED BY THE GOD WHO MADE YOU AND KNOWS YOUR EVERY NEED.

Pastoral care is readily available by calling Rev. Hoppert at 920.838.0405.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9am Men's Coffee	2 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting	3 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30pm Faith Formation Team—Zoom	5 <i>Consistory Items Due</i>	6
7 9am Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person)—Chancel Choir Sings 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	8 9am Men's Coffee	9 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Consistory	10 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 9am Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	15 9am Men's Coffee	16 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Salem Green Board Meeting 7pm Amateur Radio Exam	17 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18	19 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	20
21 Youth Sunday! 9AM Faith Formation 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	22 9am Men's Coffee	23 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting	24 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25	26 <i>Newsletter Assembly</i>	27
28 10am Worship (Livestream and in-person) with Holy Communion—Chancel Choir Sings 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	29 Memorial Day	30 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting	31			



The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of 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 as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

From Holy Ground - A Prayer to Strengthen the Church

By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister, Heartland Conference

Loving God,
Ground us anew
In Your deep desire
For a fullness of flourishing
Yearning to rise throughout
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep
In the soil of Your love

Bursting open seeds
Often long-forgotten
Except by You
Bearing a strength
For blessing and healing
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving
In our deepest selves

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: Joshua Bender
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Mary Mullen
CUSTODIAN: Shannon Mendenhall
CHURCH SECRETARY: Linda Bosman/Sandy Rabe
ORGANIST: Scott Weir

*CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE
INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF SALEM UCC*

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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