

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

In my reading this week I stumbled across an online article from *Crisis* magazine, written by John L. Grondelski, dated November 27, 2014, which offered a warning about the fate of the Thanksgiving holiday. He had noted that most of the American civic/national holidays—except for Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July—had their original purposes hollowed out and replaced by an emphasis on commercialism. However, he saw the writing on wall when it came to Thanksgiving as “Black Friday” was starting its creep into the holiday itself.

Sure enough, the signs he saw nine years ago have come to pass. “Black Friday” has crept into “Brown Thursday” as sales have begun at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day (as well as “Cyber Monday” for online sales the Monday following Thanksgiving). As an aside, the push to start the holiday sales on Thanksgiving Day is something that, frankly, I've never understood: we have had people bolt out of family Thanksgiving dinners as soon as the plates were cleared to go to these things. Go figure.

As Grondelski pointed out, there is something in our increasingly secular culture that gets uncomfortable with tying the holiday to the traditions of a people who recognized that their very survival depended on the care and concern of Divine Providence. It's better to replace that heritage with something less threatening and more useful—like commercialism.

And here we are.

Even for persons who have ties to traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs, it is easy to make the

emphasis of Thanksgiving Day more about what we are thankful for instead of who we should be directing our gratitude towards. However, we will have the opportunity to properly ground our celebration of thanksgiving in this season and remember that we, too, are persons whose survival depends on the care and concern of Divine Providence. On Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m., we are invited to share in a celebration of thanksgiving with our brothers and sisters at First Congregational UCC at their church at 6:30 p.m. (please note the time). Our celebration will include music from the choirs of both congregations. There will be time for refreshments and fellowship following worship.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



All Saints Day observed Sun., Nov. 5 with Holy Communion

Join us in worship today as we remember those members who have gone on to the Church Triumphant in the past year. Holy Communion will be served during worship. And plan to arrive a few minutes early; Consistory members will host coffee time from 9:30 until service begins.



Special Gifts Team Update

The Special Gifts team met October 16, 2023 and made one grant in the amount of \$500 to The Gathering, in Milwaukee. The Gathering provides meals to the homeless, and in the past Salem has supported this mission with funding, as well as work teams who have gone down to serve meals. We are happy to be able to continue to fund this worthwhile cause.

Earlier this year we also made scholarship grants to Cassie Pilling, Cora Meyer, Lauren Bunyea, and Morgan Clarke. The first \$500 have been paid to their individual schools and the second payment will be made prior to the Spring semester.

We also supported SCIO, funding our annual \$1,000 gift.

At our last meeting the idea to provide gift baskets and support to our church and local community came up. A small group of members is looking to possibly restart some of the activities done by past groups and find new ways to reach out to our church members and broader community.

If you're interested in being part of this new caring ministry, **please join us for a brainstorming session on Mon., Nov. 6 at 9 a.m.** at church or reach out to Kay Scheible, Faye Hughes, or Linda Bosman.

Thank you!

Mary Mullen, on behalf of Special Gifts Team



Watch for the Angel Tree

Salem will again support our community by purchasing Christmas gifts from the Angel Tree. Please check the tree and select a tag (or several) so that others may look forward to gifts under their trees. The tags for specific items needed by local families will be available on the tree in the narthex on Nov. 12. Wrapped gifts will be due back to church by Dec. 7.

You're Invited to Lakeland University Ethics Program

You are welcome to attend this free program offered by Lakeland's Ulrich Center for Faith, Ethics and Justice.

- **Mon., Nov. 13**, 6:30-8 p.m. Ethics Conversation: "Churches as Platforms for Social Change" with Rev. Dr. Rebecca Turner.

This event will be about finding ways to plug in to social justice work from a faith-based perspective. This would be a great opportunity for youth as well as anyone who wants to be more active. Held on the second floor of Lakeland's Camps Center.

**The Food Pantry item being collected during November is:
Baked Beans**



So far this year, the Food Pantry has had 93 new families or individuals sign up, so the items our church has provided this year have been greatly appreciated!





The Church School children helped lead worship service on Children's Sabbath Sunday, Oct. 15. They also joined the Chancel Choir to sing "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love."

*Sending a warm hug to
these members -- and
anyone else who needs one*

**Rollie Bruggink
Andrea Kapellen
Georgine Littlefield
Carole Hummell
Lynn and Ed York**

**Florence Blanke
Eugene Boll
Mariann Picard
Tim Miller**



Blessings to all of you as you look back on all of your special memories, and as you look forward to making many more.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

11/3	Josiah Gundersen	11/14	Susie Katsma	11/26	Karen LeMahieu
11/3	Kelly Wolfert	11/20	Marsha Meyer	11/26	Lauren Bunyea
11/4	Sean Mullen	11/21	Jeffrey Bender	11/26	Wes Huibregtse
11/5	Levi Flunker	11/22	Carl Holzer	11/28	Vyra Thiel
11/6	Rachel Risse	11/23	Judy Paulson	11/29	Robert Scheible
11/7	Tabitha Munz	11/23	Linda Krueger	11/30	Ashley Krueger
11/10	Breeley Gutschow	11/24	Wanda Meyer	11/30	Judith Meerstein
11/10	Guinevere Mauk			11/30	Todd Fischer
11/10	Jill Pilling				
11/12	Ian Schoenefeld				
11/13	Thomas Daigle				
11/14	Ali Pilling				
11/14	Sharon Odekirk				



- 11/4 Jeff & Mary Bender
- 11/4 Bret & Jennifer Schoenefeld
- 11/5 Carl & Lori Holzer
- 11/6 Scott & Rhonda Raeder
- 11/6 Edward & Lynn York
- 11/6 Richard and Judy Rortvedt
- 11/11 Adam & Lindsey Zorn

Many thanks to Ed Ardell, Terry Risse and Jeff Greuel who helped put new LED light bulbs in the sanctuary and chancel. Ed says the total watts used for all the lights is now 1,760, versus 14,000 watts for the previous lights. That should have an impact on the light bill! And the LED bulbs produce less heat, making the chancel more comfortable for everyone. Thanks also to Altmeyer Electric for their professional assistance with this project.



November Lectionary

Sunday, November 5

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 12

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-7

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 19

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Judges 4:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 123

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 26

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm: Psalm 100

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Bridgeway news and requests

Bridgeway will host an Open House on November 28. The public is invited to attend for tours, refreshments and updates on their programs. Bridgeway is also seeking frozen vegetables, batteries of all sizes, and 13 gallon garbage bags. As always, these items can be dropped off at the church office and we will handle delivery. And the winter farmer's market starts in November. It's held the first and third Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon, at First Congregational UCC, 310 Bluff Ave., Sheboygan.

Coffee hours offer conversation and connection



All Salem members are invited to come to Coffee Hour on **Mondays at 9:00 a.m.** The men's coffee time meets every Monday and the women's coffee time meets the second Monday of the month. Come to gather and enjoy a time of fellowship. And feel free to bring a friend or two!

Scrip cards make shopping for hard-to-buy folks easy

Plan ahead for Christmas purchases and gifts---buy Scrip cards! The church office has a wide supply of cards for area stores and restaurants. And your purchase of Scrip benefits the church. Purchases can be made on Sunday mornings or during office hours.

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 All Saints Day 2pm Salem Green Communion 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	2	3	4
5 All Saints Day Recognition w/ Communion 9am Church School 10am Worship (Livestream and In-person) 7pm AA	6 9am Men's Coffee 9am Brainsform session for mission/service projects	7 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10 <i>Consistory Agenda Items Due</i>	11
12 9am Church School 10am Worship (Livestream and In-person) 7pm AA	13 9am Men's Coffee 9am Women's Coffee	14 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Consistory 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 5:30pm Mentor Meal 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 9am Amateur Radio Exams
19 9am Church School 10am Worship (Livestream and In-person) 7pm AA	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline for December</i> 9am Men's Coffee	21 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Salem Green Board 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service at First Cong. UCC	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 Reign of Christ 9am Church School 10am Worship (Livestream and In-person) 7pm AA	27 9am Men's Coffee	28 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30		

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
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OFFICE HOURS: OPEN TUES 9-4; WED 9-4; FRI 9-1 CLOSED MON & THURS
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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Sharing faith, lifting up, reaching out and growing together."

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