

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

New Year's Eve traditions have certainly evolved in our household as the years have marched on. In the early years of our marriage, we would go out to dinner and then to a gathering at Abby's family and see in the new year there. As we've gotten older, we've had dinner at home (some form of "surf and turf") and have seen the new year in while sitting in our living room, in front of the fire, listening to the sounds of Guy Lombardo (once dubbed "The sweetest music this side of heaven"). Shortly after midnight, we'll call up the house where Abby's family has gathered and wish those present greetings for the new year.

Before heading off to bed, we will sit by the fire and wonder what transitions the year ahead might bring. Staring at a blank slate, it is often hard to imagine what might transpire in the twelve months ahead. For example, we had no idea, standing at the threshold of 2020, what disruption and societal turmoil would be unleashed with the spread of COVID-19. Standing at the threshold of 2021, we didn't know that both of Abby's parents would die within three months of each other during that year. Last year, we looked at the start of 2023 knowing full well that my father would soon be making that transition from death into life eternal.

Some events—for good or for bad—we can anticipate; others we can't. As they say, there are no guarantees in this life, just percentages and actuarial tables. Perhaps we should take the words of the Psalmist to heart as we stand at the threshold of the new year: "So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." (Psalm 90:12 NRSV)

It is my hope the year ahead may bring its share of blessings to you and that in all circumstances we may treasure and appreciate the time given to us and make wise use of it.

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



In case of inclement weather please tune to 1420AM (Cow Country) or 1330AM (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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 25

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25 immediately after the 10 a.m. worship service.

Although the meeting date is later than in the past, reports from various organizations of the church are requested to be in the Church Office by **Friday, January 5**. This allows the staff time to organize, proofread, print and distribute annual report books in advance of the annual meeting. We appreciate your responsiveness to this deadline!

Tom Daigle is the person to contact if you have interest in or have a candidate in mind to fill the coming terms for the Church Council. The Council meets monthly and would welcome to have all seats filled as we go about planning the work of the church for 2024 and beyond.

REMEMBER! → *2024 Envelopes*
ARE AVAILABLE TO BE PICKED UP

January Lectionary Readings

Saturday, January 6

Epiphany

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 21

Hebrew Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20



Sunday, January 7

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Epistle: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 28

Hebrew Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Gospel: Psalm 111

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, January 14

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Holy Communion Schedule for 2024

Sunday, January 14, 2024 - 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 - 10 a.m.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 (Ash Wed.) - 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – (Maundy Thursday) 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – (Easter) TBD

Sunday, April 14, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 10 a.m. (Confirmation)

Sunday, May 19, 2024 – (Pentecost) 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 9, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 14, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Sunday, August 11, 2024 – 10 a.m.

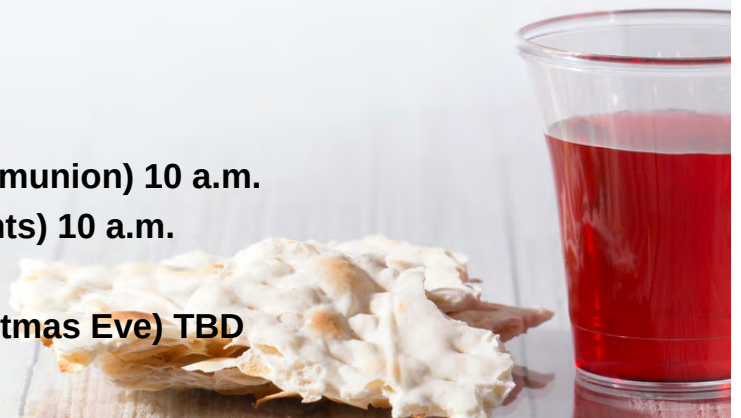
Sunday, September 8, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 6, 2024 (World Communion) 10 a.m.

Sunday, November 3, 2024 – (All Saints) 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – (Christmas Eve) TBD



*Blessings for a joyful day and
for the coming year.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1 Cindy Conrad | 1/11 Kevin Bunyea | 1/21 Quinn Wilson |
| 1/2 Dale Knuth | 1/16 James LeMahieu | 1/22 Richard Jarosch |
| 1/5 Betty Davenport | 1/18 Corrine Vorpapel | 1/25 Carter Pratt |
| 1/8 Denise Buss | 1/18 Janice Koepsell | 1/26 John Meerstein |
| 1/8 Edward York | 1/18 John Hoppert | 1/30 Deanna Lindow |
| 1/8 Robert Lorenz | 1/19 Susan Clarke | 1/31 Dan Klotz |
| 1/10 Laurie Born | | |

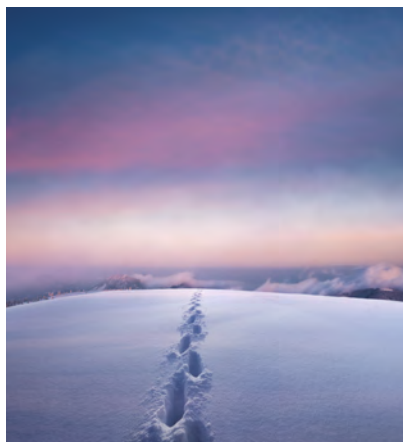
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/22 Larry & Sharon Zwerg

*Sending thoughts of peace and
comfort to these members*

Dolores Bohrmueller
Rollie Bruggink
Andrea Kapellen
Georgine Littlefield
Carole Hummell
Lynn & Ed York

Marian Lisowe
Eugene Boll
Mariann Picard
Tim Miller
Margaret Johnston



Thought for the New Year

"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

Isaiah 43:18-19



Salem Cares

will host coffee hour
prior to worship
on January 7.

Salem Cares is a group of members and friends which meets monthly to generate support around events and activities to show our love and concern for those of our congregation and those beyond our doors. We invite your ideas and especially your participation in the group. The next Salem Cares meeting is Monday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.

We are planning to send care boxes in February to our members away at college and in the military. If you have a family member currently attending college or in the military, please inform the church office of the name and address so we can include them in our plans. Also, to help with the postage, we are asking members to consider “sponsoring” a surprise box. Any amount will be helpful and much appreciated.



The Food Pantry item
being collected during
January is
pasta sauce.

VISIT OUR NEW CHURCH NURSE IN UPDATED HEALTH ROOM

We're pleased to announce that Cassie Clarke is offering blood pressure screenings for members. She will be available **before and after service on January 7** to do a screening for anyone interested.

Even if you don't need your blood pressure checked, take a moment to check out the updated health room! Cassie has painted and decorated the room to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Scenes from Salem Advent Activities





2023 Children's Program - it's a wrap!

Truly Grateful for you.



Many thanks to all who helped with our Advent activities, including sponsoring poinsettias, participating in the Sing Joy concert, decorating the church, helping with Kids' Night Out, assembling and delivering gift bags to those who are unable to worship with us in person, purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree, reading and lighting the Advent candles, planning and assisting with the children's program, participating in the Advent book study group, and let's not forget those who stuffed little treat bags for the children.

For the ushers, Council members, music leaders, AV talent, and oh so many more...our hearts are full of gratitude and thankfulness. It was a busy month and wonderful to see so many folks involved in the work of the church.

NIGHT TO SHINE 2024



Theme: "Love Grows Here"

Let's show our love as we transform Salem with an elegant Valentine's theme for our **February 9, 2024** event. Join Sheboygan County Night to Shine by serving as a volunteer, inviting guests to be honored kings or queens, or providing financial or other support.

I am excited to share a little bit about Sheboygan County Night to Shine your opportunity for become involvement in this wonderful event providing a memorable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older.

Volunteers like you make this happen. In Plymouth, Salem UCC will be partnering with Christian Life Church in hosting Night to Shine 2024 on Friday, February 9. St. Paul Lutheran Church will be hosting an event at the same time, in Sheboygan Falls. Working 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 enjoy prom favors and, of course, dancing. Photographs, refreshments and a Respite Room for parents and caretakers are also part of the evening.

Volunteers serve in many different way: Activity Stations, Decorating, Flowers, Food Service, Guest Buddy, Guest and Volunteer Check-In, Paparazzi, Parking & Transportation, Red Carpet Respite Room, Sensory Room, Here to Cheer, Set-Up, Tear Down, and more. Opportunities to provide monetary and other donations are also possible.

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 9th an evening to remember!

Blessings,
Mary Bender



JANUARY 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 1 <i>Happy New Year</i> | 2 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 7:00pm Narcotics Anon. | 3 5:30pm Mentor Meal 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 4 <i>Items due for Council Mtg.</i> | 5 <i>Annual Reports Due</i> | 6 <i>Epiphany</i> |
| 7 9:00am Church School 9:15am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous | 8 9:00am Men's Coffee 9:00am Women's Coffee 10:00am Salem Cares | 9 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 6:30pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon. | 10 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 11 | 12 | 13 8:30am Amateur Radio Exam |
| 14 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:00am Church School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous | 15 9:00am Men's Coffee 6:30pm Special Gifts Mtg. | 16 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 1:00pm Salem Green Board of Directors 7:00pm Narcotics Anon. | 17 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 <i>Newsletter articles due</i> 9:00am Church School 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous | 22 9:00am Men's Coffee | 23 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 7:00pm Narcotics Anon. | 24 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 25 | 26 | 27 |
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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 9-1 CLOSED MON & THURS
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