

MARCH 2024, VOLUME 74, NO. 3

# 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 view the purpose of the Chapel Chime's front page as focusing on future events in the life of the congregation, I do want to start out this month's edition by lifting up something that happened the previous month: the "Night to Shine" event that was jointly held at Salem and Christian Life Assembly of God back on February 9th. It was a good night for the participants, and I was impressed that more people were involved in volunteering for the event than we had the previous year. I am deeply grateful for all of the members of our congregation who were part of the effort: your work, as well as the congregation's willingness to open its space for the event, speaks well to your witness of faith. As a pastor, I was proud of your efforts.

Now, for the matters that lie ahead: the rest of Lent and the approach of Holy Week. It is one of those rare years where all of Holy Week lies in the month March (just barely). As we journey through these last days of the Lenten season, I am reminded that we have spent quite a bit of time in this season using gospel passages from Mark's gospel (along with some readings from John's gospel). In the other years of the Lectionary we will use passages from Matthew and Luke's gospels, but this year we focus on Mark. Now, one of the themes we encounter in Mark's gospel is that Jesus does not want his identity as the Messiah to be revealed until after he has raised from the dead.

That sounds like an odd thing to do. After all, wouldn't Jesus want more people to know who he was?

The more I've thought about the matter, the more it does make sense to me. A good number of people in those days—including the disciples of Jesus, themselves—believed that the Messiah would come to establish an earthly kingdom and right all of the political wrongs done by the Romans and others in power. Jesus had something else in mind, entirely. He would empty himself of power, suffer unimaginable humiliation and pain, and die a slave's death. No one expected that. It would not be until after the resurrection that the whole story would make sense. Easter had to happen first.

The resurrection becomes the lens that makes the sufferings of Jesus make sense. It also becomes the lens that makes our suffering and struggles in this life—especially on behalf of the gospel—make sense, as well. Easter reminds us that God can redeem the worst of circumstances and create a new thing in the face of death. That message becomes increasingly valuable the longer we've been on this life's journey.

May the re-telling of the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection in this season bring you peace and hope in this season.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert

## For Our Church Family

**Dolores Bohrmueller**

**Rollie Bruggink**

**Andrea Kapellen**

**Georgine Littlefield**

**Carole Hummell**

**Marian Lisowe**

**Eugene Boll**

**Mariann Picard**

**Tim Miller**

**Margaret Johnston**

We pray for a month  
that blooms with  
good things for you.



**The Clarke family will host Easter Breakfast this year. Easter Breakfast will be after the early worship service - estimated time for breakfast is 8:30 a.m.**

**Sign up sheets for help and donations will be in the gathering area. If you have any questions please ask Susan Clarke.**

**Thank you.**

## March Lectionary Readings

### Sunday, March 3

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22

### Sunday, March 10

Hebrew Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

### Sunday, March 17

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Epistle: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel: John 12:20-33

### Sunday, March 24

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: 14:1-15:47

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35



### Good Friday, March 29

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Epistle: Hebrews 10:16-25

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

### Easter Sunday, March 31

Hebrew Scripture:

Psalms 22:23-31

Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

In case of **inclement weather** please tune to 1420AM (Cow Country) or 1330AM (WHBL) for weather-related cancellations. Alternatively, look on WTMJ 4, FOX 6 and WISN 12. If Confirmation classes are cancelled on Wednesday evenings, students will be contacted.



Salem will be collecting jars of peanut butter to help the Plymouth Food Pantry in March.



Salem UCC has a part-time, year-round volunteer opportunity. Please inquire by April 1, if interested.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY** - Approximately 15 hours per month (weekly time commitment varies depending upon activities) - This is currently a volunteer position that offers some flexibility to set your own work hours.

**Skills and Qualifications:** self-starter, ability to work independently, attention to detail, thoroughness, organization, tracking budget expenses, analyzing information, accounting, computer proficiency, data entry skills, general math skills, functioning knowledge of QuickBooks, good communication skills; must be 18 years old or beyond; Background Check required



If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this position, please speak with Mary Bender, Mary Mullen or a Council member by April 1. You may also contact the church office at 920-892-7456 or [churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org](mailto:churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org).

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



- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 Richard Rortvedt           | 18 Anne Hernandez          |
| 02 Louise Leverenz            | 18 Janice Bunyea           |
| 03 Evelyn Kretsch             | 18 Kevin Mauk              |
| 03 Kay Mauk                   | 18 Marion Lehmann          |
| 03 Stacy Bender               | 19 Linda Bosman            |
| 04 Brittany (Daigle) Winscher | 24 Evan Raeder             |
| 04 Simon Feldner              | 25 Leslie (Kleinhans) Blad |
| 05 Carol McElroy              | 26 Donald Laack            |
| 07 Jackie Veldman             | 28 Kathy Schaap            |
| 10 Morgan Clarke              | 29 Carol Barts             |
| 17 Joshua Veldman             |                            |
| 17 Wiley Wolfert              |                            |

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



Salem cares will host coffee hour before and after worship on March 3. We'll be celebrating Salem's 128th anniversary with a special cake. Join us!

**MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 21st Randy & Linda Johnson
- 23rd Jeff & Linda Krueger
- 30th Jeff and Laurie Born

*May the occasion of your wedding anniversary bring smiles for all the yesterdays and tomorrows.*



**SHARE THE LIGHT**

Share the Light is the theme in 2024 as we celebrate 75 years of One Great Hour of Sharing. Special envelopes are in the narthex and we will receive these offerings and bless them on March 10. Read the insert to this newsletter and learn how our giving helps influence and nurture the light of Christ in the world today.

# LENT SIMPLE SUPPERS CONTINUE WEDNESDAYS AND INCLUDE MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Come and join us for food and fellowship.**

Volunteers are needed to help with various aspects; please contact the church office.



SALEM UCC - PLYMOUTH HOSTS MULTI-GENERATIONAL

## LENTEN PROGRAM

**Wednesdays**  
Now thru March 20

**Simple Supper 5:30 - 6:15 p.m., followed by reflective lesson & service project, concluding with a vesper service from 7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28

**Simple Supper 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. In the Fellowship Hall and we will remain there for a time of group study and reflection. We will turn our focus to worship at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.**

**Good Friday**  
March 29

**Good Friday worship service begins at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary as is our tradition.**

Easter Sunday sunrise worship at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship to celebrate our risen Christ including Holy Communion.  
Salem practices open communion. All are welcome at Christ's table.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS GRANT REQUESTS

The Endowment Committee is pleased to share that we have over \$9,000 to distribute in grants this Spring.

These gifts are used to encourage Christian stewardship and enable the Church to continue and expand its mission. They can be used for existing ministries, innovative ideas, or capital improvements. A few examples of previous requests include updating technology in the sanctuary, aiding an affiliated church in Malawi, fulfilling our benevolence goals, sponsoring our members in their ministries at Back Bay Mission, and many more.

**Please get creative and consider making a grant request;** we would love to hear your ideas!

Applications are available in the Church office and are due April 22nd. Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee with questions.



With gratitude,

Tom Daigle, Josh Bender, Leslie Blad, and Alayne Krause

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## Reminder from Special Gifts

Our annual report provides a summary of our team's activities over this past year. A key initiative is our scholarship funding.

This past year we were able to grant four \$ 1,000 scholarships. We will be reviewing our scholarship funding and scholarship requests at our April 15 meeting, so we ask that any **funding requests are submitted by March 31, 2024.**

For current scholarship recipients, we would appreciate an update on your

progress during the past year as part of your grant request.

Please reach out to the church office for scholarship request forms.

And remember—Special Gifts funds are also available for other needs throughout the year, so please submit requests for funding you would like the team to consider.

Thank you!

*Special Gifts Team*

# NIGHT TO SHINE 2024



*Theme: "Love Grows Here"*

**Thank you for helping to make Sheboygan County Night to Shine 2024 a tremendous success!**

**The evening of February 9th was truly memorable and filled with much celebration! Over 800 volunteers joined in honoring 186 Night to Shine "Kings" and "Queens" from Sheboygan County and neighboring communities. You can enjoy a five-minute video of the Salem UCC / Christian Life Church event by searching for "Sheboygan County Night to Shine 2024 Recap – Plymouth" on YouTube. Photos and videos of the event at St. Paul Lutheran, in Sheboygan Falls, are also being shared online. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NTSSheboyganCountyWI> where you will see smile after smile...**

**It is so heartwarming to witness the love that is shared and relationships that continue to grow stronger each year. The contributions from our church family have been overwhelming. All of the minutes, hours and days of service are multiplied when we serve together with God's blessings upon us. I want to thank everyone who came to cheer, served as a Buddy, helped with hospitality, communications, cleaning, setup, decorations, ironing, putting things back into place, spreading news of the event, offered prayers, monetary and in-kind donations or other support. Every gift of time, talent and other resources is significant!**

**As Salem's commitment to this community event continues to strengthen, we look forward to the next Night to Shine on February 7, 2025. Please watch for announcements later this year. If you would like to know more about Night to Shine, or have interest in becoming involved as a volunteer, please reach out to me, Cyndi Huibregtse or Linda Bosman.**

**Thank you and many blessings,  
Mary Bender**

# **OBITUARY**

## **“The Bread of Life”**

**March 7, 1965 - January 28, 2024**

Almost sixty years ago Rev. Ferguson - ‘Fergie’ - had an idea to have Salem’s Sunday service broadcast on what was then WPLY. A change in ownership of the radio station and program format resulted in a new call sign, WJUB, Jubilation Ministry. That call sign and format changed again a few years ago. Now it’s WXGI, and known as Cow Country.

“The Bread of Life” aired for the first time on WPLY on March 7th 1965. Many years passed since that first broadcast happened live via a dedicated phone line. At 9 AM the engineer at the station would open the line between Salem and the radio station, and the head usher had to make certain that the switch in the sound room [close to where the office door now is] was also turned on. Listeners heard the service from that point until 9:30 when the circuit was closed. Rev. Ferguson relied on his wristwatch to pace the service so listeners would hear a hymn, the Scriptures, special music, the Sermon and another hymn. Usually this worked, but not always.

In later years the cost of the dedicated phone line between the church and station became too expensive. The service was then taped and aired one week later. Advances in recording technology changed and taped services gave way to the digital age when we began making the recordings on CDs. After airing, those CDs were archived in the church office.


On January 24, 2024, Salem received a letter from the management of WXGI informing us that January 28, 2024, would be the last day “The Bread of Life” would be aired. That day was five weeks short of 59 years. After 2,977 sermons “The Bread Life” was off the air. Salem had no chance to “plead it’s case” to be on the air until March 7, 2024, to fill out the 59 years. Despite this “oversight” almost 59 years is a long time for any radio program to still be on the air. Over the years there were some financial struggles but “The Bread of Life” continued, sustained by the generosity of Salem members who honored an individual or event, or in memory of a loved one. To all of you who supported the radio broadcast ministry a most sincere “thank you.”

“The Bread of Life” is survived by evolving technology, airing on Community Cable TV Channel 14, Facebook Live Streaming, DVDs shared with care facilities and in the memories of many listeners over the years.

**RIP**



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Church School 9:15am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship</p> <p>7pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Men's Coffee</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm Simple Supper 7:15pm Vesper Service 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Items due for Council meeting</i></p> <p>8:30am Amateur Radio Exams—Library</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>7pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Men's Coffee 9:00am Women's Coffee</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 6:30pm Council</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm Simple Supper 7:15pm Vesper Service 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship</p> <p>7pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Men's Coffee</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm Simple Supper 7:15pm Vesper Service 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship</p> <p>7pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Men's Coffee 9:00am Salem Cares</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:15pm Egg Coloring 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> 5:30pm Simple Supper 7:00pm Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> 1:30pm Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>Holy Saturday</b> 10:00am Egg Hunt</p>
<p>31</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b> 7:30am Sunrise Worship w/ Communion 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>7pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>						

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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