

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 the calendar on our refrigerator at home informs me that autumn did not begin until September 22nd, other happenings tell me that the season began well before that date. Schools are back in session. All things pumpkin spice are on the store shelves. The NFL is playing games on Sunday afternoons. And the programming year has started up again at Salem.

It has been good to see young people back in church school and Confirmation. It has been good to hear the Chancel Choir sing during worship. Those are all familiar landmarks of church life. The pace of things will pick up as we progress through the fall. Already (at this writing), I am working on the hymn list for December, which encompasses Advent and Christmas. Time marches on quickly.

As planning for the remaining months of 2024 ramps up, I will share with you a change for the Christmas schedule that has been discussed in Worship Team and Council over the past several months: the discontinuation of the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. I make that announcement with some sadness: in my early years at Salem, the only true worship service we had on Christmas Eve was at 11:00 p.m. (our other offering was a church school Christmas program for the upper grades) and that service carried with it a rich tradition. Over the years, we expanded our Christmas Eve service offerings to include a 7:00 p.m. and a 4:30 p.m. service, but we noticed some trends emerging: the 4:30 p.m. service became the clear-cut choice for most people. In time, the 7:30 p.m. service became the first service to be removed from the schedule due to declining attendance, but the 11:00 p.m. service began to see a decline in numbers, too. In response to the criticism that 11:00 p.m. was too late, we moved the service to 10:00 p.m. but the decline continued. This sort of trend has been reflected in other congregations, as well: there has been a reluctance to get out to church late on a winter evening that cut across all traditions.

In 2022, we had about 20 persons in attendance at 10:00 p.m. and chose to give it one more year to see what would happen. When we had the same number of people in 2023, we made the decision to discuss discontinuing the service.

Although the 10:00 p.m. service will be discontinued, we will take one of the more popular features of that service—the candle lighting service at the conclusion of worship—and incorporate that into the 4:30 p.m. service.

Well, that covers a bit of territory for the first Front Page of the new program year. Until next month.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - OCTOBER 13

Attention: All Members of Salem UCC – Please make plans to attend!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 13, 2024 immediately following 10 a.m. Worship

This is notification to all Salem members of a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, October 13, 2024 following our 10:00 a.m. worship service.

PURPOSE: CHURCH FINANCIAL STATUS

As discussed at this year's Annual meeting, the Church's financial needs are not being met with weekly giving alone. Since 2022, in order to help fund operating expenses, the Church has utilized \$60,000 in funds bequeathed to the Church by Einale Mayer. By January of this year, the bequest balance had been depleted. Since February, the Church has utilized \$15,500 of its \$20,000 line of credit to keep up with the basic needs of the Church, such as utilities, wages, and insurance. Should the line of credit be fully utilized, as is anticipated, the Church faces the reality of having to choose which bills are paid and which are not.

At the September Council meeting, the Council authorized a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 13, 2024, immediately after worship. The intent of the meeting is to discuss the Church's financial status and how to ensure that the Church continues to operate for many more years.

Members of the Church Council and Finance Team will be available after worship on Sundays, September 29 and October 6 to answer questions and hear your suggestions.

Thank you,

Salem UCC Council

Paul Clarke, Josh Bender, Bonnie Bermke, Susan Clarke, Tom Daigle, Terry Debbink

Get involved at SALEM

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School is underway but if you've not quite gotten into your fall "swing" of activities - not to worry - there is plenty of room for you/your family, or perhaps you have new neighbors - that would be interested in learning more about our church. We are each charged with being "fishers of men". How's the fishing by you?

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes for students in Years 1-3 are underway with a robust program of classes, workshops, and offsite experiences. The classes are lead by Rev. Hoppert and Mary Bender.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Eileen Brooks, beautifully performed *Here I Am Lord* in September. The choir traditionally sings the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and special occasions. Singing is a great social outlet and is very good for your health. Two good reasons to join the choir beyond the obvious - singing praises to our God.

WOMEN'S COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

You should know there is a new group in town - Salem Cares. Comprised of the women of Salem, they offer a women's coffee hour once a month (typically the 1st Monday of the month at 9 am. for coffee and conversation). Coffee and tea are available or you may BYO morning beverage. You'll enjoy fresh and lively discussion. Salem Cares meets at the end of each month to discuss upcoming events and outreach ideas.

SOCIAL (AKA "COFFEE") HOUR AFTER WORSHIP

Salem Cares resumes offering coffee hour on the first Sunday of every month, immediately following worship. Everyone is welcome to join us on **Sunday, October 6** for refreshments. Other weeks are open for you to sign up - perhaps make it a family service project to serve as hosts.

Seeking items for "Off the Wall" Sale

As part of the Craft and Vendor Fair in November, *Salem Cares* will hold an "Off the Wall" sale.

This will feature the sale of pictures, wall hangings, posters, frames and other decorative wall art. If you have items of this kind that you no longer wish to display in your home and would like to donate for the sale, they may be brought to the church office during open hours.

Please bring only items that are in good condition and suitable for hanging on a wall.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

03 Angela (Fontany) Hartmann	09 Carole Hummell	19 William Lammers
03 Faye (Kleinhans) Hughes	09 Charlie Seifert	20 Danielle Holzer
03 Marlene Miller	10 Larry Fuerst	20 Terry Risse
03 Thomas Blad	11 Joey Halle	22 Paul Clarke
04 Bonnie Bermke	13 Sharon Zwerg	22 Zachary Schwantes
05 Amber Ausloos	14 Michelle Mauk	24 Belle Gutschow
06 Maddy Pratt	15 Jerad Lehmann	24 Natalie Paulick
06 Robert Schuricht	16 Haley Schwantes	26 Cassandra Clarke
07 Drew Hoppert	16 Jaiden Krueger	27 Brett Pilling
07 Elaine Kuck	18 Kathleen Schmitt	28 Layla Wilson
08 Mallory Andrews	19 Carol Lisowe	

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

04 Jordan & Leslie Blad	21 Tom & Jackie Veldman
04 Mike & Kelly Wolfert	26 John & Bette Humbracht
07 Chris & Melissa Huenink	28 Wesley & Cynthia Huibregtse
07 James & Pat Wachter	28 Lyle & Kaye Theune
09 Alayne and Scott Krause	29 Kyle & Melissa Odekirk
15 Dale & Janis Knuth	30 Stacy & Joseph Ausloos
18 Russell & Kathleen Schmitt	31 Robert & Patricia Becher

SHARING A SMILE as we think of YOU!

**“Age is an issue
of mind over
matter. If you
don’t mind, it
doesn’t matter.”
- Mark Twain**

**Marian Lisowe
Eugene Boll
Mariann Picard
Gladys Palm
Tim Miller
Bob Metze
Bill & Joanne Lammers**

**Rollie Bruggink
Georgine Littlefield
Margaret Johnston
Carole Hummell
Corrine Vorpapel
Evie Meinnert
Elaine Kuck**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

Endowment Due October 1st

Special Gifts due October 14th

Do you have an idea for how Salem can "be the church" within or beyond our four walls? That idea might be eligible for financial support through a grant from Salem's Endowment Fund. Grant requests for funding of mission and ministry related activities are due to the church office by October 1st as the committee meets the 10th.

The Special Gifts team will also meet in October to review scholarship applications. Any Salem member currently taking classes at a higher learning institution may complete an application for consideration. The scholarships are worth \$500 per semester and are renewable. Applications are due by October 14th.

Request forms for funding are available through the church office. Questions may be directed to the church office.

October Lectionary



Sunday, October 6

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Job 1:1:2:1-10

Psalm: Psalm 26

Epistle: Hebrew 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, October 13

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm: 22:1-15

Epistle: Hebrews 4:12-16

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 20

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm: Psalm 104:1-9

Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, October 27

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm: Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

Epistle: Hebrew 7:23-28

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52



SERVICE MISSION PROJECT

MEAL PACKING EVENT!

Thursday, October 10 5:30PM-7:30PM

GRADE 3-AGE 18 ADULT CHAPERONE NEEDED.

SIGN UP REQUIRED through Church Office

We have four vacancies of the 10 spots being held for Salem UCC at this event.

If you have not volunteered, know there is a job at the site for You! Sitting, Standing, Hauling, Weighing, Sealing, etc. Sign up now please!



HOSPITALIZED?

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE HOSPITALIZED AND WANT TO ENSURE PASTOR HOPPERT IS NOTIFIED, PLEASE CALL HIM DIRECTLY 920.838.0405.

THE HOSPITAL MAY NOT ALWAYS CONTACT THE CHURCH SPECIFICALLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Salem UCC's First Craft & Vendor Fair
Saturday, November 2nd
217 Salem Drive, Plymouth, WI 53073
8:30am-3pm
Food available for purchase!

Response has been phenomenal with just one spot left to be filled as of this writing. Imagine your church (the fellowship area and the classrooms bustling with crafters and vendors readying their tables for the community to come and enjoy.

What a fantastic first Craft and Vendor Fair. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come and see the wonderful creations made by local hands - young and old alike.



For the month of October Salem will be pleased to gather

BAKED BEANS

to benefit the Plymouth Food Pantry. A collection bin is just outside the church office door. The Food Pantry greatly appreciates your continuing generosity and support for their work!



THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOTE FOR HOPE

In 2023, the United Church of Christ launched a campaign calling for action at the federal level of government to address the overlapping crises of climate and inequality. Through the Climate Hope Cards campaign, churches across the country collected 8,000 postcards that were delivered to the Environmental Protection Agency as part of an effort to save thousands of lives, address societal inequities, and get our nation on track to meet its climate goals.

In 2024, the UCC is building upon the success of this effort with a new campaign called Vote for Climate Hope. Between now and November 1, UCC churches are encouraged to take the *Climate Hope Voter Pledge*--



and make a commitment to “vote as an act of hope for present and future generations.” Those who pledge to vote will receive a confirmation email with helpful voter information, a one-time reminder of their pledge to vote in the week before the election, and a chance to win one of ten Vote for Climate Hope tumblers featuring the artwork from our 2024 Climate Hope Art Contest for children and youth. If interested in making this pledge, please contact the church office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Bulletin Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting <i>Endowment Grants Due</i>	2 <i>Council Agenda Items Due</i> 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	3 6pm Worship Team Meeting	4	5
6 9am Church School Coffee Hosts: Salem Cares 10am Worship w/Chancel Choir and Holy Communion 7pm AA	7 9am Men's Coffee 9am Women's Coffee 6pm Musical rehearsal	8 <i>Bulletin Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Council	9 2pm Communion at Sale Green NO Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Communion	10 5:30pm Feed My Starving Children 6:30pm Endowment Team Meeting 6:30pm Lakeland Confir-	11 Knock Knock Middle School Retreat / 11th - 13th	12
13 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am Church School 10am Worship 11am Special Congregational Meeting 7pm AA	14 <i>[Pastor on vacation]</i> 9am Men's Coffee 6pm Musical rehearsal 6:30pm Personnel Special Gift Applications	15 <i>Bulletin Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	16 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	17 7-8:30pm Just Peace Program 1st Congo. In Sheboygan Falls	18 	19
20 ----- 9am Church School 10am Worship w/Chancel Choir 7pm AA	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline for November</i> 9am Men's Coffee 6pm Musical rehearsal	22 <i>Bulletin Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 Lakeland Lecture	23 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 9am Church School 10am Worship 7pm AA	28 9am Men's Coffee 9am Salem Cares 6pm Musical rehearsal	29 6:30 Lakeland Lecture	30 <i>Newsletter assembly</i> 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	31	OCTOBER 2024	

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 Bender
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
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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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